

## Mr Carter hopeful of arms pacts in 1978

President Carter made an optimistic forecast in Warsaw yesterday that 1978 would see a resolution of many issues in arms limitation talks between America and Russia. As for strategic arms, many major issues had already been settled. The President told a news conference that he would reply in writing to questions on human rights, sent to him by dissident Polish journalists. They had been forbidden by the Polish authorities to attend the conference. Mr Carter said he had no plan to visit Cairo on his present tour.

## Warsaw told of issues resolved with Russia

Warsaw, Dec 30.—President Carter today promised to send a written reply to dissident Polish journalists who were excluded from the first news conference given by an American President in a Marxist country. The underground dissident newspaper *Opinia* asked for accreditation to cover Mr Carter's trip but was refused by the Polish communist authorities. However, the newspaper submitted written questions through the American Embassy, and Mr Carter said he would respond in writing. *Opinia* asked among other things whether a permanent international body should be established to supervise observance of human and civil rights. It also asked Mr Carter to say what effect the establishment of rival political parties in Poland would have on international détente. The news conference was beamed by satellite to the United States but was not shown live in Poland. *Opinia* is one of 14 "independent" newspapers produced by a variety of means ranging from washing machine rollers to batteries of typewriters. The first edition of the fourteenth such paper, *Gospodar* (Farmer), directed at agricultural workers, appeared today. The emergence of the dissident newspapers in Poland is unique in Communist East Europe. Beset by serious economic and social difficulties, the Warsaw Government has made little attempt to clamp down on them. *Opinia*, which claims a circulation of about 5,000, is the biggest of the dissident publications. It is run by a Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, itself illegal but tolerated. Today's news conference was dominated by the problem of reaching a settlement in the Middle East. The President denied reports that he was planning to go to Egypt in the course of his current nine-day tour of six nations. Nevertheless, he pointed out that he had a "standing invitation" from President Sadat. On Thursday Mr Sadat expressed surprise and disappointment at President Carter's comment, made in Washington, that he did not favour creation of an independent Palestinian nation. Evidently seeking to head any risk which may have opened, Mr Carter stated today: "We have no intention or desire to impose a settlement." But he said his position on a Palestinian state had not changed, although "any agreement that can be reached between the Israelis and Egypt would be acceptable to us." Mr Carter said he would "certainly consider" visiting Egypt if the situation warranted it. The White House spokesman, Mr Jody Powell, said later that if a trip to Cairo became necessary, it could be decided "within two or three days." The conference came during a busy day, which included ceremonial wreath-laying ceremonies in a blustery winter weather and formal talks with Polish leaders. At the news conference Mr Carter said his talks on issues of peace and war with Mr Edward Giersek, the Polish party leader, and his colleagues had been "very fruitful." Wearing an earphone through which he received simultaneous translation of a question from a Polish reporter, the President said he had been encouraged by recent progress in arms negotiations with the Soviet Union and hoped to conclude the Salt 2 talks next spring. "We have resolved many of the major issues," he said. "A few still remain. We have made good progress in recent months." His optimistic prognosis was in contrast with reports in Washington which said the Salt talks had run into serious snags and that chances were fading for an agreement in 1978. Mr Carter also said that progress was being made in other arms talks: an agreement to limit military activity in the Indian Ocean, a ban on the use of chemical and biological weapons, a total prohibition of all nuclear testing, and curbs on the sale of conventional arms. He concluded his assessment of the current state of Soviet-American negotiations by saying: "I believe 1978 will see a resolution of many of these issues." Carter appeal to Polish nationalism and photograph, page 4.

## White votes agreement 'next week'

Salisbury, Dec 30.—A black nationalist leader negotiating with the Rhodesian Government to end white rule said today that agreement on the complex issue of white parliamentary representation under black rule is possible next week. "Talking off the cuff, I would say the agreement on the issue can take place any time next week," the Rev Nkomo said in an interview. Mr Sithole, leader of the faction of the African National Council known as the ANC (Sithole), is one of three black leaders making part in the conference aimed at an "internal" majority rule settlement. The other two are Bishop Abel Muzorewa of the United African National Council and Mr Jeremiah Chirau, of the anti-guerrilla Zimbabwe United People's Organisation. Since the conference began on December 2, the talks have dealt mostly on the question of white parliamentary representation. Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, has demanded that whites be given a parliamentary blocking third to ensure that constitutional safeguards are not overturned.—UPI.

Havana, Dec 29.—Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Rhodesian black nationalist leader, left Cuba today after an eight-day visit during which he held talks with President Castro.

## Mr Vance will join Israel-Egypt talks

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, Dec 30  
Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, informed Israel today that he will join the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers in Jerusalem for the meetings of the political committee of the Cairo conference, scheduled to open on January 15. Mr Samuel Lewis, the American Ambassador, called on Mr Moshe Dayan, the Foreign Minister, and brought official word that Mr Vance accepted the invitation extended yesterday and will attend the meetings at least for a brief period. As stated in Parliament on Wednesday by Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, the committee will deal with the problems of Israeli civilian settlements in the Sinai peninsula which is to be returned to Egyptian sovereignty under the proposed peace treaty as well as with the deadline over the future of Palestinian Arabs. Mr Lewis told reporters after his meeting today that the report between the Government of Israel and the United States had grown steadily since the present Administration took office in June as Mr Carter and Mr Begin got to know each other better. Our Cairo Correspondent writes: Egypt, embarrassed by Mr Carter's opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state, was today assessing the implications of the American President's attitude to the Middle East peace-making process. Official sources here described Mr Carter's remarks as "unfortunate", particularly as they came at a time when President Sadat's Arab opponents were still continuing their onslaught on his peace initiative and planning another summit conference to coordinate their actions against Egypt. Mr Sadat himself, who had conducted arduous talks with Mr Begin in Jerusalem, earlier this week to secure agreement on the Palestinians' right to self-determination, said in an interview with American television correspondents that he was surprised and disappointed at Mr Carter's statement. Mr Carter's public rejection of an independent Palestinian state had left Egypt's position in the negotiations with Israel, he said. Egypt yesterday received Mr Begin's plan for a Middle East settlement, with minor modifications, which was conveyed by Mr Hermann Eilts, the United States Ambassador in Cairo. Official sources here said the modifications did not change the essence of the plan, which Egypt opposed. President Sadat today sent messages to the heads of state of a number of Arab, Western European and Asian countries to canvass support for his peace initiative and to brief them on the outcome of the Israeli talks. Baghdad: Iraq has agreed to be the host of a second summit next month of Arab states opposed to Egypt's peace initiative. Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, was today quoted as saying. According to the Iraqi news agency, Mr Arafat reported that he discussed the summit with Mr Saddam Hussein, the vice-president of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council. Invitations had been sent to Algeria, Libya, Syria and South Yemen and to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. King Hussein in Iran, page 4.

## Sir Douglas Allen and Equal Opportunities chairman among five life peers in New Year Honours Mr Jack Jones and Dr Leavis become Companions of Honour

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Two controversial and influential figures, Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Professor F. R. Leavis, literary critic and moralist, are made Companions of Honour in the New Year Honours published today. Mr Jones, who retired in March, will be remembered as one of the architects of the social contract as well as for his unswerving support of socialist ideals, and the intellectual vigour of Mr Leavis and his puritanical approach to life and literature will continue to have its sway. The acceptance of an honour by Mr Jones comes after his strong advocacy of the abolition of the House of Lords at the Labour Party conference in October. He also disclosed that he had been offered a peerage but "I told them I did not want it." The status setting up the Order of the Companions of Honour states that it is for "such persons as may have rendered conspicuous services of national importance." The New Year Honours include five life peers, two of them former employees of the Home Civil Service, Lieutenants Colonel Sir Martin Charteris, former Private Secretary to the Queen and Keeper of her Majesty's Archives, and Professor Oliver McGreggor, professor of social institutions at London University. Four new Privy Counsellors have been created: Mr Concanon, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, Mr Davies, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, and Mr Morris, Minister of State, Civil Service Department. Among those who receive



Honours for, left to right, Mr Jack Jones, Miss Betty Lockwood, Mr Peter Pears, Dr Leavis, and Mr Michael Young.

Transport House, the Labour Party headquarters. Miss Betty Lockwood, chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, was with the office of the party until she took up her present appointment. Mr Michael Young, who until recently was chairman of the National Consumer Council, and is chairman of the Mutual Aid Centre, was head of Labour's research department after the Second World War. The other life peers are: Sir Douglas Allen, retiring Head of the Home Civil Service, Lieutenants Colonel Sir Martin Charteris, former Private Secretary to the Queen and Keeper of her Majesty's Archives, and Professor Oliver McGreggor, professor of social institutions at London University. Four new Privy Counsellors have been created: Mr Concanon, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, Mr Davies, Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, and Mr Morris, Minister of State, Civil Service Department. Among those who receive

knighthoods are: Mr Tom Hopkinson, former editor of *Picture Post*, for services to journalism; Mr David McNea, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police; Mr John Methven, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry; Mr Leslie Murphy, chairman of the National Enterprise Board; Mr George Smith, general secretary of the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians; Mr Kenneth Newman, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary; Mr Andrew

Shonfield, director, Royal Institute of International Affairs, and Peter Pears, the singer, for services to music. There are 720 names in the Prime Minister's list, and as in previous lists they reflect Mr Callaghan's wish to recognise those who have benefited the community, particularly in education and the handicapped. Mr Charles Carter, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, receives a knighthood, and at a lower level of honours Mrs Elizabeth Stannard is one among many who are recog-

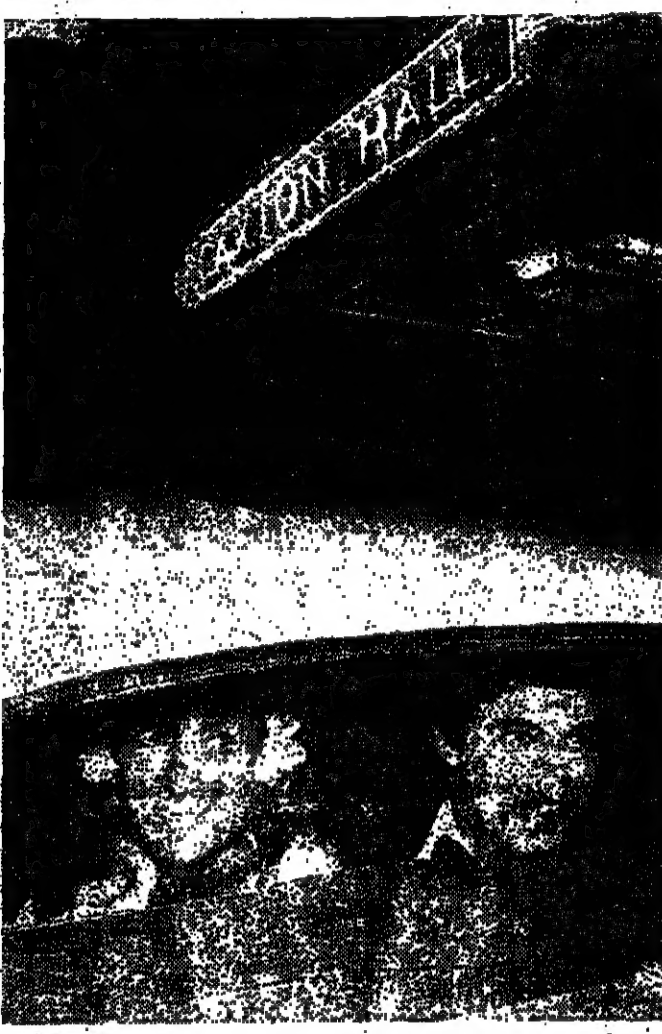
nized for their community work by being awarded the British Empire Medal. She has cared for 80 foster children over the past 30 years. She comes from Mid Glamorgan. In the field of community work Mr Donald Tyceman, a former editor of *The Economist* and a former deputy editor of *The Times*, is appointed CBE for his services to the Sore Children Fund. Artistic merit is well represented. The list includes Mrs Isabel Wray, better known as Isabel Laible, the distinguished singer who sang with Toscanini. She becomes a Dame Commander of the British Empire. Mr Walter Winterbottom, a former manager of the England football team, receives a knighthood for his services to sport. Mr Michael Brearley, captain of the England cricket team, is appointed OBE. Others created OBE include Mr Phil Bennett, Mr Maurice Goldstein, for services to table tennis, and Mr Dorian Williams, chairman of the British Horse Society.

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## President's undiplomatic interpreter lacks polish

From Vernon A. Guldry Jr  
Warsaw, Dec 30

It was not what President Carter said here that irritated and disturbed the Poles so much; it was what they thought he said. Mr Carter had hardly stepped off his aircraft to be welcomed by Mr Giersek, the Polish leader, before the State Department translator accompanying him, Mr Stephen Seymour, had the President's foot in his mouth. When Mr Carter spoke, a number of English-speaking Polish journalists and other Polish sources agree, this is what came out: He said he had just left America that morning, but his audience at the airport and on television was told he was saying he had left for good. At another point, the translator had Mr Carter desiring the Polish people warmly when he only wished them well. Russian sources and a Russian word were used. When Mr Carter sought to praise the Polish constitution of 1791 as one of the three great documents in the eighteenth-century struggle for human rights, it came out to Polish listeners as a ridicule. Mr Jan Bejro, a Swedish journalist, listened to a broadcast version of the speech with a group of Poles. "I speak Polish and I heard the Poles laugh at first, then they grew angry." "Our Polish official, who declined to be named, said that aside from specific errors, it was distressing that the United States, which has a reputation here for efficiency, should have brought an inadequate translation." A member of the President's party remarked forlornly that Mr Seymour was a great translator of written Polish.—Washington Star. Warsaw, Dec 30.—Mr Seymour was today replaced as Mr Carter's interpreter by Mr Jerzy Krycki, aged 36, a Pole who has worked as a teacher, interpreter and translator.



Miss Regina Dangerfield and Mr Robert Claiborne-Dixon, Caxton Hall's last bridal pair, after the ceremony yesterday.

## Last nuptials before the curtain falls

By David Nicholson-Lord

The flashbulbs popped, the confetti showered and the happy couple drove off in a white Rolls-Royce as Caxton Hall register office, London, yesterday celebrated its last wedding of the year. Yet for all the show-business trappings, it was a momentous final curtain that rang down on a stage that has witnessed

the marriages of such personalities as Sir Oswald Mosley, Diana Dors and Ringo Starr. Not even the presence among the guests of Mr Pete Murray, the disc jockey, and Miss Jackie Trent, the singer, could disguise the chilly fact, in the words of the last bride, that it was over. From the new year local government cost-effectiveness dictates that all marriages in London will be registered at the council house in Marylebone Road. With the simultaneous closing of the Paddington register office, a saving of

## Chancellor hints at new income tax cuts

By Our Political Reporter

Further cuts in direct rather than indirect taxation in the new Budget were predicted by Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in an interview on ITN's *News at Ten* last night. Asked which form of tax cuts he favoured, Mr Healey replied: "I think income tax." He explained that all Britain's indirect taxes, such as value-added tax, were much lower than elsewhere in Europe, but income tax was substantially higher. "I particularly want to help people at the bottom of the scale, either by a reduced rate band by which people pay a lower rate of tax on the first £500 or £1,000 of income, or else by further increases in tax thresholds, by increasing the amount of personal income." Mr Healey said the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was pessimistic in assuming that settlements and earnings will increase by a tenth in the public sector but by 15 per cent or more in the private sector. He said there had been only two private-sector settlements above 10 per cent: at Ford and Vauxhall.

## Resignation of PPS through work pressure

By Our Political Reporter

Mr John Cartwright, MP for Greenwich, Woolwich East, chairman of the centre-right Manifesto Group of Labour MPs, and a member of the Labour Party national executive committee, has resigned as parliamentary private secretary to Mr Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, because of pressure of work. He is to be succeeded by Mr Giles Radice, MP for Chester-le-Street, who is also a leading member of the Manifesto Group.

## Firemen unlikely to budge Mr Rees at tripartite talks

By Christopher Thomas  
Labour Reporter

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, will enter crucial talks with the firemen's leaders and local authority employers on Tuesday determined to stand by the Government's 10 per cent earnings ceiling. It seems unlikely that there will be any significant shift on the offer that has been made. But the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) will make a determined attempt to win some concessions which might pave the way to peace. It is clear that there is some agitation for a return to work in one of the union's 14 regions, the south-east. About 180 firemen in the Surrey brigade, nearly a third of the total, have drifted back to work and several red fire appliances are being used in addition to the "Green Goddess" appliances. Mr Leonard Gibbs, the south-east region chairman, and Mr Harold Evans, the Surrey brigade secretary, have been removed from office for going back to work. Mr Gibbs, who was advised by letter yesterday of his suspension, returned for personal reasons and union officials were at pains last night to emphasize that there was no scrimony. More than fifty FBU members in the Surrey brigade, mostly officers, defied the strike call from the outset. A senior officer said last night that pickets were not stopping the red appliances. "That would be an offence," he added. In Kent and East and West Sussex, which make up the other brigades in the south-east region, the strike is still intact. Mr Rees made it clear yesterday that while agreeing to Tuesday's tripartite talks, he would be sticking to the terms of the guidelines. Those amount in a promise of more money later, but no more than 10 per cent now. The Government is prepared to underwrite a two-stage increase to give the firemen the equivalent of the skilled industrial workers' wage by November, 1978. Assuming a 10 per cent annual wage rises between now and then, that would give the firemen more than £100 a week. After the talks the union will again have to face the delicate question whether to recall the national delegate conference that alone can end the strike. It almost certainly will not do so without making a recommendation on whether to return to work. The FBU executive opposed delegate conference will be the strike and the timing for a critical judgment by members on the strike, the men are generally still determined to hold out. Delegates from the 18 Essex full-time fire stations voted unanimously in Chelmsford yesterday to continue the strike. The local authority employers said last night: "Our mood is one of caution and we are not prepared to express either optimism or pessimism." Mr Terence Parry, FBU general secretary, will be writing to the TUC formally asking for a reconvened congress to reaffirm its policy for an immediate return to free collective bargaining. The executive of the National and Local Government Officers' Association has voted by 44 to 17 against a motion plugging full support to the FBU "in its campaign for realistic rates of pay." But a number of the union's branches have given donations. Fire kills child, page 2.

## Stronger pound's effect on exports worries industry

Concern over the effects of an improving pound on company profits and export competitiveness has prompted a number of British Chemical Industries, Britain's largest industrial company, gave a warning that the strengthening of sterling would have an adverse effect on its results in the fourth quarter of this year. The pound again moved up against the dollar, closing at \$1.9170. Page 5

## Irish union chief held

Police in Liverpool have detained Mr Philip Finn, a prominent Irish trade union leader, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Merseyside police said that he was stopped during the night as he was about to board the Liverpool ferry to return to the Irish Republic. Dublin was in touch with the Foreign Office over the incident. Page 2

## MPs' pornography plea

An all-party group of 14 MPs and peers have called for a strengthening of the laws on pornography. They want the use of child pornography for purposes to be made a criminal offence and propose an extension in the definition of obscenity. The group made their proposals known to the committee set up by the Government. Page 3

## Who's who in TV serial recreating Watergate

A television serial clearly dramatizing the events and personalities of the Watergate scandal and President Nixon's downfall is now being shown on BBC1, *Washington: Behind Closed Doors*. The serial, set in the United States, where Jason Roberts's portrayal of President Richard M. Monckton was instantly recognizable. David Cross identifies other main characters. Page 4

## Lloyd reaches final

John Lloyd, by beating Bob Ghitman, of Australia, in the semi-final round, became the first British player since Fred Perry in 1924 to reach the men's singles final of the Australian tennis championships. His opponent in the final will be Vitas Gerulaitis, of the United States. Page 20

## Turks take command

Turkish generals will take over command of important Nato land and air forces, based at Izmir in Turkey, in a reshuffle announced by General Haig, the alliance's commander. The American generals who have commanded up to now will become deputies to the Turkish commanders. Page 3

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## HOME NEWS

## All-party group of MPs and peers call for a strengthening of the laws against pornography

By Ian Bradley

An all-party group of 14 MPs and peers has called for a strengthening of the laws on pornography. They want the use of children for pornographic purposes to be made a criminal offence and propose an extension of the definition of obscenity.

The group, which is led in the House of Commons by Mr Michael Allison, Conservative MP for Barking and in the House of Lords by Lord Longford and Lord Nugent of Guildford, made their proposals in a submission yesterday to the Committee of Inquiry on Obscenity and Film Censorship set up by the Government in June under the chairmanship of Professor Bernard Williams.

Several members of the group, who are all practising Christians of various denominations, urged the Home Secretary last year to set up a committee of inquiry on pornography. When Professor Williams's appointment was announced they protested at the fact that the chairmanship of the committee had been given to a well-known humanist.

In their submission they say that the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, has proved uncertain and ineffective. They propose a new definition of obscenity which would tend to deprive or corrupt.

They recognize "that there will always be a danger of doubt whether a single case of material would corrupt. The real danger is that it tempts the victim into further exposure, which then becomes an addiction."

The group suggests that the defence of public good should be deleted from the Obscene Publications Act, although it accepts that the defence in the interests of science, literature or art should remain.

It also proposes that private individuals be allowed again to bring prosecutions in the case of theatre and film performances which they consider to be obscene. The right of private prosecution was stopped by the Theatres Act, 1968, and for cinema performances by the Criminal Law Amendment Act of last July.

The group believes that special attention should be paid to protecting children and young people from exploitation for pornographic purposes. It proposes making it a criminal offence to persuade, employ or offer payment to any child or juvenile to be photographed or appear on the stage or before a camera unclad, or to stimulate any sex acts or engage in sexual behaviour.

Announcing the group's proposals, Lord Nugent said: "As the producers of pornography push out the boundaries to enlarge their market into more and more offensive material, it is more than ever necessary that some of us should get up and say that an offence to public opinion is being created and that this is a serious danger to our national life."

The other members of the group are Lord Barrington, Lord Bewick, Lord Carr of Hadley, Lord Halsbury, the Bishop of Leicester, Mr Alan Beith, Mr Peter Mills, Mr Eric Ogden, Mr Terence Walker, Mr Patrick Cormack and Mr Cledwyn Hughes.

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## Winchester motorway plan may be dropped

By Michael Bailey  
Transport Correspondent

Winchester's much disputed motorway-by-pass scheme is likely to be dropped after long and costly protests. The government inspector is not due to report until next summer, but Mr David Farr, chairman of the Winchester M3 Joint Action Group, said yesterday: "We are confident of a great victory."

Protesters have spent seven years and nearly £50,000 arguing that the 12-mile motorway is unnecessary, that it would damage the cathedral city, and that government departments had over-estimated traffic forecasts to justify it, and had under-estimated costs.

The Department of Transport declined to comment yesterday, but promised to take account in deciding whether to build the road of the findings of the Paper published earlier this year, and of the forthcoming report of the Leitch committee on roads. Both favour the motorway.

The Leitch committee, as reported exclusively in *The Times* recently, finds that roads have been built unnecessarily in the wrong place, and that traffic forecasts have been too high and cost estimates too low. The White Paper, signalling an end to large-scale motorway construction in Britain, promised a more flexible approach to improving roads in phases and to different standards according to need rather than "building to lines superimposed on maps and to rigid standards."

That is just what the Winchester protesters have proposed. Using eminent planning consultants, a statistician and an investment analyst, they attacked the case for the motorway at sometimes rowdy public inquiries, and suggested instead upgrading existing roads at only two-thirds of the cost.

Mr Farr said yesterday: "We showed that the motorway cost would be nearer £26m at 1976 prices than the £20m estimated by the department, and that traffic flows in the 1990s would be only 60,000 vehicles a day, instead of 85,000."

"For the first time we were able to go into the case for a motorway in great detail and put up an alternative that would mean the traffic need without loss of speed with far less disruption and environmental damage, for only £17m-£18m."

## Boycott move on homosexual 'discrimination'

By Our Labour Staff

Britain's fourth biggest union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo), may drop a plan to hold its 1981 annual conference in Scarborough because of the local council's refusal last year to accept a booking for the Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Nalgo estimates that the town would lose £500,000 if the week-long conference, which involves more than 3,000 people, was held elsewhere. A council official said yesterday: "This is a family holiday town, and the majority felt they did not want to encourage or placate homosexuality. It was a democratic decision."

Thieves take bait  
Police yesterday were seeking thieves who took 250 gallons of live maggots, valued at about £1,000, from a Nottingham bait factory at a time when there is an acute shortage.

## Health authority appeals over £243,309 award

Camden and Islington Area Health Authority has lodged an appeal against the record £243,309 damages awarded in the High Court on December 7 to Dr Lim Poh Choo.

Dr Lim, a former senior psychiatric registrar at Friern Hospital, New Southgate, London, suffered brain damage during a minor operation at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

Mr Justice Bristow said the figure was high, but Dr Lim, aged 41, was condemned to a living death and would have to be looked after for the rest of his life.

The health authority, which admitted liability, is to appeal on the amount of the award. The hearing will be held at the Court of Appeal on January 13.

Dr Lim now lives in Penang, West Malaysia.

## No inquiry into Tories dispute

Lord Thorneycroft, national chairman of the Conservative Party, has refused a request for an investigation into the circumstances in which Council Mrs Margaret Wood defeated an attempt to oust her as the party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Huddersfield, East.

In a letter to Mr John Galvin, a former vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, Lord Thorneycroft said that each constituency was autonomous and he could not interfere.

Check on animal exports delayed  
Two Conservative MPs who planned to visit France yesterday to investigate allegations of neglect of exported animals had to postpone the trip because of bad weather.

Mr Peter Mills, MP for Devon West, and Mr Robert Hicks (Bodmin) had planned to sail on the Plymouth-Roscoff ferry with a consignment of 160 calves from Devon. But because of bad weather in the Channel the trip was put off until today.

## WEST EUROPE

Party newspaper accuses Government of being in cahoots with violence and tolerating terrorism by extreme right

## A surprise packet for French Communists

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Dec 30

The Communist Party has never had much of a reputation for its sense of humour, and in the past week it has not been without grounds for solemn protest.

Three days after shots were fired against the country house in the suburb of M Garchais, the Communist leader, a suspicious looking parcel was addressed to him at party headquarters, which it was thought, might be a time-bomb.

The police were immediately alerted and took it away for examination. And indeed it was found to contain about one kilogram of a yellow substance, with a detonator and fuse, and a card bearing the inscription: "Marchais, you too are a Soviet imperialist" with the signature "Man".

The Communist Party did not wait for the findings of the police laboratory to launch into a strident anti-terrorist campaign. M Gaston Flisconier, secretary of the Central Committee, made a solemn statement to the press, pointing out that this was one more indication of "a deliberate intention to create a climate of fear and unrest."

He went on to declare: "The present Government majority and its policy produce both inflation and unemployment, disorder and violence. The tolerance—even the indulgence—shown towards these criminal acts by the Government becomes each day more intolerable. French men and women aspire to live in tranquillity and peace. The Government of Messieurs Giscard d'Estaing and Barre is now confronted with its responsibilities."

He had not only M Marchais's parcel to complain about. A similar parcel was discovered in a left-luggage locker of the Air France terminal at the Gare d'Orly, and anonymous telephone calls warned two hotels near by that the parcel contained a bomb, due to explode 20 minutes later. At the same time the persons responsible forwarded to the Elysée Palace the key of the locker.

Police rushed to open the locker, which was found to contain a card labelled "Present for the President of the Republic", one kilogram of a yellow substance, half a dollar bill, and a label from the luxury food store Fauchon, destroyed by fire a few days before Christmas, presumably by anarchists.

Yesterday it was revealed that the yellow substance in both "bombs" was lard, but carried away by its anti-terrorist crusading zeal, the Communist Party was not going to hold its horses for a detail like that.

Today's issue of *L'Humanité* contains a long article alleging that the Ministry of the Interior had all the evidence required to arrest the criminals responsible for the terrorist attacks against the Communist League against Racism. The attacks have been attributed to a so-called Joachim Peipper

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## Scott church needs £100,000 for repairs

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

An estimated £100,000 is needed for repairs to All Souls' Church, Halifax, West Yorkshire (right). The building, which Sir George Gilbert Scott, its architect, is thought to have considered his best, has been closed for the past year because of danger from decaying stonework.



OVERSEAS

# Nixon men live again in TV soap opera of Watergate years

From David Cross  
Washington, Dec 30

In a city that had lived through every agonizing twist and turn of the Watergate scandal, it did not take long for television viewers to identify the main characters in Washington: Behind Closed Doors, the epic political soap opera about the Nixon years, now being shown on BBC 1.

From the moment Mr Jason Roberts appeared on the screen as Richard M. Monckton, the presidential candidate with a pathological hatred of a dead president who had beaten him at an earlier election, there was absolutely no doubt that what was being shown was fiction based on fact.

The serial is in fact based on a novel by Mr John Ehrlichman, President Nixon's chief of staff, who is serving a jail sentence for his part in Watergate.

Although his physical likeness to Mr Nixon is not great, Mr Roberts's facial features, particularly his eyes, accurately imitate those of the disgraced former President. Indeed, when Mr Roberts appeared here as the lead in an Eugene O'Neill play before Christmas, many members of the audience, including myself, were unable to divorce his Nixon portrayal from their minds.

British viewers, however, who were never as immersed in the Watergate scandal as his countrymen across the sea, may be having more difficulty in identifying some of the other characters who surround President Monckton. For example, here is a partial list of the most important figures in what became affectionately known here as *Doors*.

There are no prizes for guessing that Andy Griffith, who in the earlier episodes played Esker Scott Anderson, the churlish outwitting President, is meant to be the late Lyndon B. Johnson. It is, however, not at all certain that the real President Johnson, who disliked Mr Nixon as much as *Doors* would have us believe.

No prizes either for identifying Cliff Robertson's portrayal of William Morton as the former CIA director, Mr Richard Helms. Most people here felt the characterization

to be just about right, but friends of Mr Helms objected to the suggestion that he had ever indulged in presidential blackmail.

Equally easy to pin down is Harold Gould's portrayal of Dr Carl Tessler, the former academic and became President Monckton's chief foreign affairs adviser. Dr Henry Kissinger's views on his fictional counterpart have never been made public, but at least Carl Tessler is a fairly sympathetic character in contrast to most of the others in *Doors*.

Former colleagues of Mr H. R. Haldeman, the powerful chief of staff to President Nixon from 1969 to early 1973, were not at all pleased with Robert Vaughn's screen portrayal of Frank Faltrey as a power-crazy monster responsible for virtually every plot hatched at the White House.

How then, communications director at the White House for nearly six years during Mr Nixon's presidency, was quoted as saying: "He (Mr Haldeman) was a tough guy who ran a tight ship, but he wasn't a Nazi dictator."

In the television serial, the fictional version of Mr Klein, Bob Bailey (played by Barry Nelson) is mislabeled as the White House press secretary, but he is shown here as being as unscrupulous as his boss was.

His fictional successor, Hank Ferris, is clearly meant to be the real-life figure of young Adam Garfinkel who is clearly meant to represent Mr John Dean, the White House counsel who was the first person to implicate Mr Nixon directly in the Watergate cover-up.

Most of the women portrayed in the fictional account, such as Sally Whalen (Stephanie Powers), William Morton's girl friend, do not seem to have been based on real-life counterparts in real life.

# Leader of pro-Moscow party in India quits

From Kuldip Nayyar  
Delhi, Dec 30

Mr S. A. Dange, chairman of the pro-Soviet Communist Party of India, has resigned from the post because the party's National Council last week openly condemned the CPI's support of the emergency rule of Mrs Gandhi.

Under the guidance of Mr Dange, the CPI supported the imposition of the emergency in June 1975, and endorsed the policies of the former Prime Minister.

Mr Dange, a founder member of the party in 1922, is regarded as very close to Moscow.

After reading out Mr Dange's resignation statement, Mr R. Rajawade Rao, the CPI's general secretary, today told reporters that the party's new line was approved by all but two of the 114 members of the National Council.

The statement, admitting that the CPI's support for Mrs Gandhi's emergency rule was wrong, comes at a time when the CPI has been an ardent supporter of Mrs Gandhi since 1969, when there was a split in the ruling Congress Party and several older politicians, including Mr Morarji Desai, then Deputy Prime Minister, left to form a splinter Congress Party.

The assumption of the CPI has been that Mrs Gandhi pursued progressive policies and that therefore she merited full support by the Communists.

During the emergency, Mrs Gandhi's personal rule annoyed the Communist rank and file but Mr Dange and other party leaders kept the resentment bottled up.

Since the lifting of the emergency, CPI members have been more vocal. Hence the condemnation of the emergency rule and the exit of Mr Dange.

The withdrawal of Communist support for Mrs Gandhi comes at a time when she is trying to marshal her forces within her own splinter Congress Party.

The left-wing Communists before and most of the party's leaders are opposed to her. The convention which she has convened for Sunday may be mainly attended because the India Congress Party has asked its members to boycott it.



President Carter stands silent after laying a wreath at the memorial to the dead in the Old Ghetto of Warsaw.

# President Carter sets out to appeal to Polish nationalism

Warsaw, Dec 30.—President Carter today debated East-West relations in lengthy talks with Mr Gierk, the Polish party leader, after honouring Poland's dead.

The President, ignoring sleet and driving rain, plunged into small but eager groups of Poles to shake hands. He was greeted by shouts of "long live Carter".

His tour of three national memorials, including a brief stop at the old Jewish ghetto, was carefully planned by American diplomats to emphasize American interest in Poland's national independence.

Officials said Mr Carter was expressing his close personal concern over human rights in Eastern Europe at a three-hour private meeting with Mr Gierk, mostly over lunch. It was Mr Carter's first meeting with an East European political leader.

They were discussing a broad range of issues, both international and matters of direct Polish-American interest, officials said.

Mr Carter hopes Poland can play a more active role in advancing East-West relations. He also wants Mr Gierk to set an example on human rights by lifting restrictions on Poles seeking to join families in the United States.

Mr Carter stayed late in his palace residence after his arrival last night at the start of a nine-day, six-city tour. He spent 60 minutes on a tour of memorial sites before joining Mr Gierk at the Parliament building.

At the colonnaded Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, his first stop, the Polish authorities had assembled a small crowd, sheltering under umbrellas. Several hundred onlookers broke through police lines to get closer as Mr Carter stepped out of his car.

There was a similar surge by dozens of people running to the President's car, chanting "Carter, Carter" at the Nike monument honouring Poles who died in a 63-day stand against Nazi occupiers in 1944.

Mr Carter, battling in the rain, placed wreaths of carnations at the two memorials and at the Jewish ghetto monument commemorating thousands who died in a bloody anti-Nazi uprising in 1943. At the ghetto, a yellow Star of David was added to the presidential wreath.

Mr Carter, accompanied by his wife, stood with his head bowed, his right hand clutching his forehead for 10 seconds, apparently in prayer, at a granite stone honouring about 400,000 Jews who died there and in Nazi extermination camps.

They died alone but they live in our conscience," Mr Carter said. "This is a place of great courage and bravery."

At each memorial, the president stepped briefly into the crowd to shake hands.

The memorials have deep national significance for Poles because of their past struggles against Russian as well as Nazi occupiers. The Polish Government tried to dissuade Mr Carter from making the visits, but he insisted, American sources said.

In another unusual gesture, Mrs Carter and Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, who was born in Poland, called on Cardinal Wyszyński, the Roman Catholic Primate, for a 90-minute talk on social and religious problems.

The Cardinal gave Mrs Carter a rosary and handed Mr Brzezinski a rosary for his octogenarian mother who lives in Canada. The White House said only Mr Brzezinski had planned to make the call, but Mrs Carter decided to go also.

Mrs Carter also visited Warsaw's reconstructed Old Town.

The Old Town contains nearly a thousand historic buildings, most of which were flattened in the Second World War.

Mr Gierk told a group of American journalists that President Carter's visit would draw Poland away from its links with the Soviet Union.

He expected the visit to strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between his country and the United States, however.

"We want to tell more than vodka and biggles," he said. "If you do not buy from us, we will have a soap boycott from you."—Reuter and UPI.

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# South Africa to attend new talks on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford  
Johannesburg, Dec 30

South Africa has accepted an invitation from the five Western members of the United Nations Security Council to attend talks in New York next month in a further attempt to find an independence formula for Namibia (South-West Africa).

The nationalist South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) has been invited for talks in New York at the same time as the South African Government. Diplomatic sources said today that SWAPO and South Africa would not initially confront each other across a conference table because of South Africa's refusal to negotiate directly with the nationalist movement.

It is hoped that, if the talks progress satisfactorily, the two sides may be brought face to face eventually. SWAPO has not indicated whether it will take up the invitation to go to New York.

Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, said today that the discussions would be a continuation of the talks held earlier this year in Cape Town and Pretoria between the South African Government and the Western powers—Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Canada. South Africa, he said, was always prepared to talk to the SWAPO.

It is understood that the invitation to New York was delivered on Wednesday when ambassadors from the Western nations met with the Foreign Minister in Pretoria. The invitation was discussed at a meeting held yesterday at Oudstrand, the holiday home of Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, which was attended by General Magnus Malan, Chief of the Defence Force, Mr P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, and Mr R. F. Botha.

The latest move by the Western powers is basically a revival of a proposal first made in August just before a round of talks between them and SWAPO in New York. It followed a strained meeting with SWAPO in Lusaka at which the nationalist organization suggested direct talks with the South Africans rather than using the Western group as an intermediary.

Then, as now, the main stumbling block was the question of the withdrawal of South African troops from the territory during the election period that would precede independence. At that time, according to SWAPO sources, the South Africans insisted on a reduction from 4,000 to 3,000 the number of troops it would retain in the territory. These would be balanced by a United Nations force of about 3,000 men.

SWAPO has insisted, however, that all South African troops should be withdrawn before it would take part in elections. The South Africans have refused to accept this, arguing that it would leave SWAPO to overrun the territory before the elections and influence the result. For their part, the Western powers are insistent that SWAPO must take part in any elections that are held if any independent Namibia is to achieve international recognition.

insure by strong south-easterly winds. At Mossel Bay a layer of oil more than two inches thick was reported to have covered one of the resort's tidal pools.

Beaches at Plettenburg Bay, a popular holiday spot for South Africa's moneyed classes, were badly polluted by oil which, according to one municipal worker, appeared in "large, evil-smelling blobs".

At Knysna, the local Sea Rescue Institute has launched a campaign to stop beachgoers from littering. Several hundred penguins have already been treated.

Anti-pollution vessels have been using oil dispersant out at sea in an attempt to break up the oil slick but with little success because the oil has been so thick. It is unlikely that dispersant will be used on the beaches as it could do more damage to the delicate intertidal zones than the oil itself.

The only alternative is to soak up the oil with saw and then remove it manually.

# Huge oil slick threatens Cape coastline beaches

From Our Own Correspondent  
Johannesburg, Dec 30

A slick consisting of an estimated 15,000 tons of oil was today threatening the entire length of South Africa's famed Garden Route, the scenic Cape coastline stretching between Mossel Bay and Port Elizabeth.

The oil comes from the damaged tanker *Venoh*, which collided with a cargo ship, the *Venopet*, off the southern Cape coast on December 16 while transporting a full load of crude from the Middle East.

The oil slick, the most serious ever to hit the South African coast, threatens to ruin the holidays of tens of thousands of tourists who are making their annual summer vacation on the beaches between Port Elizabeth and the Garden Route coastline. It could also have a serious impact on the wildlife for which the region is famous.

Since sunrise today squads of people have been hard at work on the beach, clearing up the sludge, which had been blown

# Military to lift curfew in Bangkok today

From Our Correspondent  
Bangkok, Dec 30

Bangkok's nightly curfew, in force since the military coup in October, 1976, will end tomorrow.

This relaxation is a further step towards democracy due to culminate in free parliamentary elections not later than April, 1978.

In other moves political prisoners have been set free under a royal amnesty, a committee has been set up to draft a new constitution, trade unions are being given a bigger voice in national decisions, and Mr Kriangsak Chavanond, the Prime Minister, has promised to lift the ban on political parties soon.

Meanwhile, security forces have extended their operations against communist insurgents. In separate operations in northern Thailand 20 insurgents were killed in an Army ambush on a jungle path, while eight rebels were captured in raids on three communist villages.

# Dispute over journalists' links with secret agents

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Dec 30

Three former American ambassadors in Europe have been sharply over how far journalists should cooperate with intelligence agents.

As a congressional hearing has continued to take testimony about the relationship between the news media and the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr William Porter, United States Ambassador to South Vietnam from 1965 to 1967, said he believed the first responsibility of an American journalist working abroad was to his government rather than his newspaper. This should be the case even if it meant planting false stories in the press or covering up CIA work done for the CIA, he added.

Mr Porter said he was "absolutely against" anything that hampered the work of the CIA, including recent agency regulations that gave it the right to make payments for services rendered by journalists.

"I am particularly adverse to pushing apart the field of foreign intelligence," he said.

Two other former ambassadors, however, Mr Dean Brown and Mr William Truehart, disagreed completely. A reporter's first allegiance should be to his profession and he should keep a good arm's length from the CIA, they felt.

"The sound policy," Mr Truehart said, "is that there should be no relationship with the CIA or other intelligence organizations except in so far as the American newsmen, like any citizen, wishes to volunteer information."

The hearings, which are being conducted by the intelligence subcommittee of the House of Representatives, have now adjourned until Wednesday.

Admiral Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA, expected to give evidence before the hearings and in the middle of next month.

# King Husain flies into Tehran to see president

Tehran, Dec 30.—King Husain of Jordan arrived here today for talks with President Carter.

The King was met at the airport by the Shah.

Mr Carter is due in Tehran tomorrow from Warsaw on the next stage of his nine-day tour and will meet King Husain on Sunday before flying to Delhi.

The King will also have talks with the Shah.

Political sources in Amman said President Carter would probably seek King Husain's views on the Middle East peace plan put forward by Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Jordan has already said that Mr Begin's proposals are unacceptable.

The Israeli peace plan, incorporating a continued military presence on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, is seen in Amman as seeking to tighten Israel's control on the West Bank. It has already been rejected by all the countries bordering the Jewish state.

In Tehran, President Carter will also find a message asking him to help Somalia in the war in the Horn of Africa with Ethiopia. It was left for him with the Shah by President Barre of Somalia when he visited Tehran earlier this week.—Reuter.

# New faces join Soviet dissidents as fast as the old ones disappear KGB fails to kill off human rights movement

From David K. Shipley  
Moscow, Dec 30

The small Soviet human rights movement, which has attracted much attention throughout the world though it is probably unrepresentative of any broadly held opinion, is at its lowest point in years after a campaign of arrests, threats and forced exile directed against most of its prominent leaders. Its momentum has been curbed, its political dexterity undermined and its communications network in the Soviet Union badly disrupted.

Yet new people have joined almost as fast as the old have disappeared. Inexperienced for most part and less dynamic than the previous generation, they have positions of less stature in this supremely status-conscious society, so they may be somewhat less able to generate respect than their predecessors.

But the unending appearance of new names on open letters and of new faces at press conferences supports the dissident conviction that the movement cannot be pronounced dead.

One part of the movement has gone to the West, another to the East, and fewer of us remain."

Walter Meisner, a mathematics professor, said, referring to the emigration and the imprisonment that have sapped the front ranks of the movement: "Some think Soviet dissent has become inevitable, a kind of natural phenomenon. In part it is a continuing reaction to the human rights movement, which has been in the society and to the Stalinist oppression that was suddenly exposed in 1956 by Nikita Khrushchev in a secret speech to the twentieth Communist Party congress that swept away a period of falsehood.

How important the dissidents are in political life is subject to debate. Small and unrepresentative though they may be, they act as a pressure point for foreign views of Soviet behaviour.

Furthermore, they often elicit expressions of sympathy and regard from other Russians, suggesting that dissent may have some resonance at home. After Professor Andrei Sakharov, the physicist and human rights advocate, won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975, an elderly cleaning woman told her Russian employer: "You know, they wanted to raise the price of vodka but Sakharov would not let them." Others have heard the same story from cab drivers.

The phenomenon of open dissent outside the circles of power is relatively new in Russian history, at least in its present form, and it is not clear whether it is a permanent feature of the Soviet system, or a product of the Khrushchev Revolution, or a product of the Brezhnev Revolution.

The Rev Henry Knight, an Anglican, said that the loose wording of the law would make it possible for a person to be brought to court for an innocent act of charity by which he helped someone who was in need. He said that the law was intended to curb Christian missionaries, but the measure was designed to curb Christian missionaries, but the measure was designed to curb Christian missionaries, but the measure was designed to curb Christian missionaries.

Not until the mid-1960s, near the end of a brief, tentative thawing of liberalisation, did the human rights movement as it is now known spring up. It is a movement with a constantly changing cast, one almost wholly concerned with ad hoc statements on specific cases rather than proposals for fundamental change or visions of a new political order.

When there has been philosophical discussion it has tended to be on the basis of the dissidents' own experience, rather than proposals for fundamental change or visions of a new political order.

What began to happen a year and a half ago, and what apparently provoked one of the most carefully executed drives against dissidents, was an unprecedented attack including the group known as *Democracy*, Jews seeking emigration, Russian and ethnic nationalists and to a lesser extent, religious believers.

The catalyst was the accord signed in Moscow in August, 1975, by the United States, the Soviet Union and 33 European states. The pace of dissident activity quickened.

Dr Yuri Orlov, a physicist who headed the Moscow committee observing the fulfilment of the Helsinki accords, undertook to establish links between the strands of dissent. He introduced Georgian nationalists to Jewish activists in Tbilisi and to religious believers in Moscow. Zealous and tireless, he brought the movement to a political climax that Dr

Sakharov, a more academic moralist, did not possess.

At the same time new dissent was coming in from Eastern Europe. Long a post-communist sensitivity among Soviet officials on the problems of orthodoxy and control.

The ferment in Eastern Europe must have worried Moscow, especially in the knowledge of the world communist movement was coming under challenge from West European parties, known as Eurocommunists.

The foundation for the KGB campaign was laid, then, by the accelerated dissident activity, the growing unification of previously fragmented elements of dissatisfaction, the persistent problems of the Soviet economy and the danger of a coalition between spokesmen for workers' grievances and human rights activists.

After 18 months of KGB operations against key dissidents, especially in the Jewish, Siberian exile or to the West.

The dissidents issued no detailed analysis of the Soviet constitution adopted in October, or any appraisal of the political situation. Rights activists and human rights activists.

Lacking friends and colleagues who understand something about Western opinion, Dr Sakharov has struck some dissidents and Western correspondents as increasingly isolated. However, the New York Times News Service.

Thomas H. Harlow, was born in 1912 and died 50 years ago today. He was a prominent figure in the labor movement and a leader of the American Federation of Labor. He was also a member of the Communist Party and a close associate of Joseph P. Kamp.

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# Pinochet plebiscite idea angers junta members

From Florence Varas  
Santiago, Dec 30

President Pinochet's announcement of a plebiscite on January 4 asking Chileans whether they agree with United Nations' condemnation of his regime has angered other members of the military junta.

It has also been rejected by the banned Christian Democratic and Socialist parties.

General Pinochet's decision, apparently taken without reference to other members of the Army, Air Force, Navy and Police Junta, has been denounced in strong terms by Navy and Air Force leaders.

General Gustavo Leigh, the Air Force commander, said President Pinochet had overriden the members of the junta by acting alone.

The armed forces resented the fact "that their honour and prestige" would be endangered "by having to exert surveillance over a plebiscite which by its very nature is bound to give rise to suspicion and misinterpretations" in Chile and abroad, General Leigh said.

# Tito pledge to present course

Belgrade, Dec 30.—President Tito said today that the trust manifested by the Yugoslav people in his leadership made him determined to continue on the present road, despite all difficulties.

He made the statement in his traditional New Year's message.

"I have been impressed with the breadth and manner in which working people of all nations and nationalities of our country have expressed their devotion to me, especially during the past jubilee year," he said.

There was no alternative to East-West détente, he added.—AP and Reuter.

# E German opposition group draws up a manifesto

From Gretel Spitzer  
Berlin, Dec 30

The existence of a Communist opposition in East Germany was reported by the news magazine *Der Spiegel* today. It publishes a manifesto drawn up, it claims, by the "Federation of Democratic Communists of Germany".

This federation, according to the magazine, was formed by medium and upper level functionaries of the ruling party organized in small groups and working on a conspiratorial basis.

In its manifesto, the opposition group within the ruling Socialist Unity (Communist) Party opposes the Soviet system in East Germany; the one-party dictatorship; and the centralism of party, state and society.

It demands a plurality of political parties; an independent judiciary; a convertible East German currency; and the introduction of currency valid in both German states.

Further demands include the "expulsion" of East German millionaires; the elimination of the party bureaucracy; and free travel between the two German states.

# Christians alarmed by Israeli law

From Our Correspondent  
Tel Aviv, Dec 30

Protestant churches in Israel have made representations to Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, against the passing of a law making it an offence punishable by five years' jail and heavy fines, for anyone to offer material benefits to induce another person to change his or her religion.

The emergency committee of the United Christian Church sent a telegram to Mr Begin saying the law passed by the Knesset on Tuesday could be "misused in restricting religious liberty."

The council claims to represent most Protestant churches and institutions in Israel. The Roman Catholic Church in Israel has also criticised the new law.

The law does not mention Christian missionaries, but the explanatory note by Rabbi Y. M. Abramowitz, its sponsor, said the measure was designed to curb Christian missionaries. He alleged that they had offered

huge sums of money and other economic benefits to "convert the souls" of the poor.

In the message to Mr Begin, the Christian Council said: "None of the Christian communities in the country known to us engages in such practices." But at a press conference, Canon Na'am Ateek, of the Evangelical Episcopal Church in Haifa, the council chairman, said: "Tourists might find a Jew and talk to him about faith in Jesus and might give more incentives."

The Rev Henry Knight, an Anglican, said that the loose wording of the law would make it possible for a person to be brought to court for an innocent act of charity by which he helped someone who was in need. He said that the law was intended to curb Christian missionaries, but the measure was designed to curb Christian missionaries.

some 500 Christians are converted each year to Judaism and a handful of Jews turn to Christianity.

Mr Binyamin Halevi, the acting chairman of the law committee, who piloted the Bill through the Knesset, said the law would make it a crime to encourage a Christian to become a Jew just as it barred a person from converting a Jew to become a Christian.

He said that the law was intended to curb Christian missionaries, but the measure was designed to curb Christian missionaries.

# Chinese 'save' woman with 100 pc burns

Peking, Dec 30.—Chinese surgeons in Shanghai claim to have saved the life of a woman who suffered burns to 100 per cent of her body and third-degree burns to 94 per cent.

In London, an expert described the achievement as "extremely remarkable". Western medicine has rarely saved anyone with over 80 per cent third-degree burns, which so completely burn the outer skin.

The New China News Agency said the 36-year-old woman was caught in a factory fire last June. As flames lapped at her, she was rescued by a fireman. She was taken to hospital, but her condition was so bad that she was expected to die.

However, it was not until she was in hospital that she was found to have 100 per cent of her body burned. She was then taken to the Shanghai General Hospital, where she was treated by a team of surgeons.

The surgeons said they had used a new technique to save her. They had removed the burned skin and replaced it with skin from her own body. They had also used a new technique to treat the third-degree burns.

The woman is now recovering well and is expected to be discharged from hospital in a few days.

# Chess chiefs put off decision on Korchnoi

Belgrade, Dec 30.—The organizers of the Korchnoi-Spassky chess match today considered Viktor Korchnoi's threat to withdraw from the 20-game series unless spectators are excluded. They put off a decision and will meet again tomorrow.

There was no play today. Korchnoi having exercised his right to postpone the fourteenth game. He says he will play on Monday, but only if his conditions are met.

Korchnoi's complaint, page 21

# Swedish minister rejects envoy's Cambodia views

Stockholm, Dec 30.—Mrs Karin Söder, the Swedish Foreign Minister, has dissociated her ministry from remarks by Mr Jean Christophe Oberg, the Ambassador to Thailand, casting doubt on reports of atrocities in Cambodia.

Mr Oberg made a 48-hour Christmas tour visit to the Angkor Wat temple in Cambodia. He told Swedish reporters in Bangkok that he saw no evidence of atrocities.

She said the Swedish Government hoped to get better information about conditions in Cambodia when Mr Kay Björck, Ambassador in Peking, makes a two-week official visit early next year.

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# Saturday Review

## The Aircraftsman and the Sage



T. E. Lawrence



Thomas Hardy

by H Montgomery Hyde

Thomas Hardy, OM, poet and novelist, was born in the Dorsetshire village of Stinsford on June 2, 1840, and died 50 years ago at Max Gate, his home in Dorchester, on January 11, 1928. His remains were cremated after his heart had been removed for separate burial at Stinsford. Meanwhile a group of his friends peti-

tioned the Dean of Westminster that he should be accorded a public funeral in the Abbey and that his ashes should be laid to rest in Poets' Corner. This was agreed, and it was officially announced that the funeral would take place on Monday, January 16.

There were 10 pallbearers who took up their positions on either side of the catafalque at the beginning of

the service, as I well remember, since I had managed to get into the Abbey for the occasion. They were led by the then Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, and the Leader of the Opposition, Ramsay MacDonald; they were followed in pairs by Rudyard Kipling, Sir James Barrie, George Bernard Shaw, John Galsworthy, Sir Edmund Gosse and A. E. Housman, while A. B. Ramsay,

Master of Magdalene, Cambridge, and the Rev Dr E. M. Walker, Provost of Queen's, Oxford, representing the colleges of which Hardy had been an Honorary Fellow, brought up the rear.

Some years later, after I had gone up to Oxford, I mentioned to Dr Walker that I had been at the service in the Abbey and had sat beside Mrs Charlotte Shaw. The Provost thereupon told me that when he

arrived in the sacristy he found two pallbearers already there, Rudyard Kipling and Bernard Shaw. They were looking out of opposite windows and neither spoke to the other. Dr Walker then discovered that they had never met before, and so it fell to this head of an Oxford college to introduce the two most controversial if not most distinguished literary figures of the time to each other.

One notable absentee from Hardy's funeral was T. E. Lawrence, a close friend of Hardy towards the end of his life. As soon as Charlotte Shaw and her husband got back to their flat in Whitehall Court after the service, she sat down and wrote a long letter to Lawrence, then serving as Air-craftsman T. E. Shaw in India, giving him her impressions of the occasion while they were fresh in her mind.

During the last 10 years of his life, apart from old friends, Hardy received very few visitors. "I think I would rather strangers (even great admirers) did not come to see him now," Mrs Hardy wrote to Sydney Cockerell, her husband's literary executor. An exception was T. E. Lawrence, who arrived at the Royal Tank Corps depot at Bovington Camp as Private T. E. Shaw in March, 1923. Before leaving London for Bovington, Lawrence had asked his friend and future biographer Robert Graves if he would give him an introduction to the sage of Max Gate. "Do you think old Hardy would let me look at him?" he wrote to Graves. "He's a proper poet and a fair novelist, in my judgment, and it would give me a feeling of another milestone passed if I might meet him. Yet to blow in on him in khaki would not be an introduction... What are my hopes?"

Graves immediately wrote to Hardy who replied that Lawrence would be very welcome at his house in Dorchester. "I saw Hardy yesterday," paid for seeing him too, for it meant cutting a parade!" Lawrence wrote on March 30, 1923. "However, it was worth it, and I'm going down again, if ever he asks me... A very sensitive little man: faded now, with hope yet that mankind will give up warfare. He felt incredibly old to me." (He was 83 then). Lawrence returned to Max Gate the following week, and until he got back to the

Air Force and was posted to Cranwell two and a half years later, he saw Hardy, and his wife regularly, either at Max Gate or at Clouds Hill, the cottage a mile or so across the Great Heath ("Egdon Heath" in Hardy's Wessex stories) from Bovington Camp, which he first rented for 2s 6d a week and later bought for £450. The cottage had been built in 1808, and it was always known as "The Cottage". Lawrence, it figures in *The Return of the Native* as Mistover Knapp, since it was there that Eustacia Vye lived with her father the Captain. Indeed half a century before, when Hardy had been working on the novel, he had drawn a map of the Egdon Heath area (now in the Dorset County Museum) in which Mistover and the cottage are clearly marked.

"A tiny brick cottage, with old tiled roof, very high pitched" was how Lawrence described Clouds Hill at the time. "It stands in a thicket of laurel and rhododendron, with oak trees and a huge box stretching over its roof. Damp? Yes: for the cottage dates from pre-damp course days, and the trees drop great raindrops on the roof after each storm. They patter across the tiles like the first notes of the Fifth Symphony."

When he visited the cottage, Hardy was struck by the two Greek words which Lawrence had inscribed over the front door and which he had taken from a tale by Herodotus expressing indifference to worldly advancement. Lawrence freely translated them as "Why worry?" explaining: "It means that nothing in Clouds Hill is to be a care upon its inhabitant."

On one occasion Lawrence invented an excuse to come over to Max Gate on his motorcycle. He had copies of the thin paper editions of *The Dynasts*, which he was anxious

to show to Lawrence, and he wrote in the notes expressing this request, "but I live in vulgar company: and they would be very precious possessions." Hardy obligingly inscribed the latter volume: "Colonel Lawrence from Thomas Hardy" underneath which the recipient wrote characteristically on his return to Bovington: "To T. E. Shaw for his comfort in camp from Lawrence." The inscribed copy of *The Dynasts* is still preserved in the library at Clouds Hill, which Shaw's youngest brother Professor A. W. Lawrence presented with its contents to the National Trust in 1938.

Six months after he had first met Hardy and when he had got to know him, Lawrence wrote again to Robert Graves from Bovington expressing his gratitude for the introduction, and how much he appreciated getting away from the camp, which he loathed, to the atmosphere of the Hardys' home: "For the ticket which gained me access to T.E. I'm grateful to you—probably will be grateful always. Max Gate is a place apart; and I feel it all the more poignantly for the contrast of life in this squalid camp. It is strange to pass from the noise and thoughtlessness of sergeants' company into a peace so secure that in it not even Mrs Hardy's sea-cure rattle on the tray; and from a barracks of hollow senseless hustle to the cheerful calm of T.E. thinking about his life in this squalid camp. If I were in his place I would never wish to die: or even to wish other men dead. The peace which can be felt, and is nearly unbearable. How anxious such an old age is."

However, here is enough to try to write about something which is so precious that I grudge writing about it. T.E. is an experience that a man must keep to himself. The Hardys invited Lawrence to spend his first Christmas at Max Gate. But he refused. ("It's not good to be happy too often.") Anyhow he had volunteered for such jobs

as "reasons and coyard" so as to set the other men "free for their orgy... Xmas means something to them. My pernickety mind discovers an incompatibility between their joint professions of Soldier and Christian". But he made up for it by lunching at Max Gate a few days later where he met the Bernard Shaws, who had been a great help to him in correcting *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, which the Hardys had also read and praised. In fact Mrs Hardy got two copies, since she subscribed for one and was given another by the author.

One sunny afternoon, in the following spring, the Hardys came to tea at Clouds Hill, and E. M. Forster, who was spending the weekend in the cottage, afterwards recalled the visit. What particularly struck Forster was that "Hardy seemed to come on a visit to us all, and not specially to see his host." Lawrence had also invited several of the other ranks who were his particular friends in the camp. Afterwards E. M. Forster said:

Thomas Hardy and Mrs Hardy came up the narrow stairway into the little brown room and there they were—the guests of us all. To think of Clouds Hill as T.E.'s home is to get the wrong idea of it. It wasn't his home, it was rather his pied-à-terre, the place where his feet touched the earth for a moment, and found rest.

Lawrence was posted to Cranwell in his old rank of aircraftsman in the summer of 1925. "You see, it has happened!" he wrote to Mrs Hardy, with whom he had been discussing the possibility of getting back to the RAF. "Quite suddenly at the end of it. It was spared a visit of farewell. It is best to go off abruptly, if at all... Alas for Clouds Hill, and the Heath, and the people I had learned in the two years of Dorset."

When he had been about a year at Cranwell, Lawrence put in for a transfer to an overseas

station, since *Revolt in the Desert*, the abridged version of *The Seven Pillars*, had been accepted for publication and he wished to avoid the embarrassment of the inevitable publicity which it was bound to attract to himself if he were in England when it appeared.

After some delay his transfer to India was approved and he sailed for Karachi at the end of 1926. He spent his embarkation leave at Clouds Hill and on this occasion he cycled over to Dorchester to say goodbye to the Hardys. "Hardy was much affected by this parting, as T. E. Lawrence was one of his most valued friends," wrote Florence Hardy afterwards. He accompanied Lawrence to the front door of the house, as he wished to see Lawrence drive off. But Lawrence, who was a difficult man to start, and thinking that he might have to wait some time Hardy went back into the house to fetch a shawl to wrap round him. "Returning a few moments later, Hardy was gripped that he had not seen the actual departure, and wished to see Lawrence go. Perhaps each had a premonition that he would not see the other again, as indeed it was to prove."

"It was my doing," Lawrence wrote by way of apology to Mrs Hardy, having heard what had happened from E. M. Forster. "The afternoon was raw and miserable, like the day, and when T. E. turned back into the house to get a shawl (as I guessed), instantly I ran the bicycle into the road and away, so that no possible reproach might lie against me for having helped him into the danger of a chill." Lawrence continued in the same letter:

The knowing you and having the freedom has been a delightful privilege of mine for nearly four years. I cannot tell you how grateful I am to you both; and how much I look forward to finding you there when I come back. Eighty-six is nothing of an age, so long as its bearer is not content with it; in fact it is still 14 years short of a decent score at cricket. While he was in India Lawrence kept in touch with the Hardys by letter, but there was little about his life in camp (which he never left) that he felt would be of interest to them. Instead he dwelt upon their little domestic troubles at Max Gate such as the loss of their old dog "Wessex" who had to be put down. In this connection he remarked that the killing of animals just because they were ill or old was not a medicine human beings applied to their own species in a more which suggested that it might not be such a bad thing if they did. Lawrence liked "Wessex", and without him he felt that Max Gate would not be quite right now. He had been just a year in the RAF Depot in Karachi when he heard the news that "the poor old beast" had been followed into eternity by his master.

Charlotte Shaw's description of Hardy's funeral, which she wrote to Lawrence, is published in full here for the first time from the original in the Bernard Shaw Papers in the British Library:

And now I have come from the burial of Thomas Hardy's ashes in the Abbey. I went 35 minutes early and found nearly all the places filled up, but got a seat almost in the middle of the south transept. The burial was at the south end of the south transept. You will see by the cuttings that GBS was a pallbearer. He walked to pair with Mr Galsworthy, but, as the catafalque was high and great they were completely separated from one another. It seemed absurd to have an immense Mer and a great and splendid pall, white, embroidered with royal crowns and many other emblems, to enclose one small casket, but it made its effect. The service was very beautifully sung, and I have never heard anything better read than the lesson "Let us now praise famous men." I had no idea how fine the organ is, and it was almost perfectly played. When the procession came down the south transept they all

passed quite near me. I was seriously impressed by Baldwin. I had never seen him before; he is far stronger than I thought. He was the only one who looked entirely unimpressed. I almost fancied he looked amused. I was terribly afraid GBS would act; but no. He was perfectly. Kipling I thought sinister.

The clergy came first and shocked me. All except one looked full of worldly pomp and disdain; self-conscious jacks-in-the-box—but that one, young, appeared wrapped from the world. Then came the choir, and after some men friends and finally Mrs Hardy with Mr Cockerell. The first time they passed she looked sweet and calm, but was so completely swathed in crepe that her face was invisible; as she passed she was hanging on Mr Cockerell's arm, and seemed completely broken. The service at the grave must have been terribly trying for her. All the rest of the time, they tell me, she was hidden in some recess; but there, of course, she had to stand out prominently. Mr Cockerell was splendidly dignified, and gave the impression (sometimes) of restrained emotion, but I don't think he felt anything very deeply really.

Before me was Jack Square with his pretty young wife. He looked old and battered, getting grey on the top of his head—and rather well I noticed me was Mr Tomlinson, I am very fond of Mr Tomlinson. I felt him there all the time, and, as a very moving moment I just turned slightly to catch his eye and saw him transfixed, with tears rolling down his face. When it was all over, I managed to get close to him for a moment in the crowd, and told him with difficulty (he is so deaf) about Gollons Reach. His poor, sad, tired little face lighted up—and he laughed. Then a wonderful thing came. On that glorious organ an almost divine organist played the Dead March from "Saul". I say advisedly that was among the most splendid things of my life. He began very low and soft and gradually opened out, making one's whole being thrill to each great phrase up to a most marvellous burst of great chords—confident, assertive, triumphant. Ah! it takes Handel to say the best word. He never fails me, if anyone talks to me now of doubts and fears and minor keys and sad stories of the death of kings—I shall say—But I know.

"So Kipling looked sinister, did he?" commented Lawrence when he got Charlotte Shaw's letter. "The silly little man annoyed me by smugly refusing to be decent to old T.H. whom he did quite a lot for when he first came to London, but whom he dropped after *Jude the Obscure*. So he was probably under Baldwin's dress. Baldwin I am sure is very good..." Lawrence had told the Hardys how the Prime Minister, who was a first cousin of Kipling, had earned his (Lawrence's) gratitude by helping him to get back to the RAF when he overruled the Air Minister Sir Samuel Hoare's veto after Hoare had turned down Lawrence's application for readmission to the ranks. Lawrence was lying on his bed in the Karachi depot camp on the Sunday after Hardy's death listening to Beethoven's last quartet on his gramophone, when one of the airman came in with the news. "We finished the quartet, because all at once it felt like him," Lawrence wrote the same day to Florence Hardy. "I am well off, having known him: you have given so much of your own life to a service of self-sacrifice... T.H. was infinitely bigger than the man who died three days back—and you were one of the architects. In the days since *The Dynasts* the Hardy of stress had faded, and T.H. took his unchallenged, unchallengeable place... He is secure." He still is 50 years later.

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Photograph by Christina Brown

## Zubin Mehta: New Year's Eve and after

Shortly after Sir Claus Moser became chairman of Covent Garden he said on this page that one of his dreams was to see a performance of Johann Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* at the Opera House on New Year's Eve. Dreams are realised this evening when *Die Fledermaus* will be heard in Bow Street, and a number of other places too by courtesy of BBC 2's live transmission, under the baton of Zubin Mehta. Did Mehta have a similar ambition?

"That I can't claim, but it is a work that has been with me for a long time. Not so much in America, where all too often it is given as *Rosenthal*, or under some such title as in Vienna, where my student days were spent. My teacher, Hans Swarowsky, made his own edition of it and in the evenings when I used to be an extra in orchestras to pick up some extra rehearsals I found that I was either playing Mozart and Haydn masses or operas, usually *Fledermaus*. At the same time there was the Karajan *Fledermaus* at the Staatsoper, produced as ours is here at Covent Garden by Professor Lindberg. When Covent Garden asked me to conduct I was insistent on being given in German. You cannot assemble a cast of our quality and ask them to learn a masterpiece in English. And quite apart from the matter of language the sounds in translation would be quite wrong; the singers would have been misdirected."

So what of his spoken dialogue, which takes up almost thirty minutes in *Fledermaus*? "That was one of the first problems we tackled. I was in Vienna discussing that with Leopold Lindberg and we decided that the man who makes the opera's wheels

revolve is Dr Falke, so why not keep Ben Luxon in the part an Englishman? The next move was to make Rosalinde English as well, married to a Viennese husband. Kiri Te Kanawa can then speak fractured German and Hermann Frey has the voice of a native Austrian."

Along the lines of Elisabeth Harwood's Rosalinde at the Theatre au der Wien during the Vienna Festival some years ago?

"That I don't know... you mean the Rostropovich performance? I didn't hear it."

When Judith Blegen was cast as Adele we were going to make her another foreigner, an English lady's maid. Now Hildegard Bechtole has taken over the role we'll have another 'Austrian' on stage. The other major problem was the casting of Frisch, the drunken jailer in the last act. We began with Usinow, but film comments intervened; then 'Popol was approached and this time there were tax problems; now I'm delighted we have Josef Meinrad. Quite apart from being one of Vienna's greatest actors—I keep telling him that he and I are the only real Viennese in this production—he could make an audience laugh if he were speaking Greek."

One of the Viennese traditions is to add an unexpected guest or three to Prince Orlofsky's party. There is the danger though of stretching a lengthy act to breaking point; the singers would have been misdirected."

"It's important not to inflate Act II. It's long, so we've contented ourselves with a waltz and a polka choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton and our guest. On New Year's Eve it was to have been Birgit Nilsson singing 'I could have danced all night' and 'Wien, Wien, bist du klein' but a few

moments ago she was forced to cancel. (Mehta was talking immediately after the dress rehearsal.) As matters stand now Hermann Frey will sing 'Large as a sack of flour' and 'I'm not quite sure why Elisabeth visits me'—I'll have to consult Dr Falke about that one."

The major change from tradition in Covent Garden's *Fledermaus* is making Orlofsky, Robert Tear, rather than a mezzo, Zubin Mehta was adamant on this point.

"Mezzos look like women however you dress them and I cannot stand female Orlofskys. I began by envisaging Orlofsky as an old, old man, tired by life and tired of it. Now we have made him into a bored young Russian aristocrat. The accent here is vital: I've given Bob all the Russian inflections I know... the 'I always come from the very back of the throat.' Mehta produces a sound of bathwater flowing down a spacious, sluggish drain. But for the rest we have kept to the score as we know it—Karl Böhm went through it when he was here for *Fledermaus* as well as *Die Fledermaus*, indeed 'my' *Fledermaus* opera."

"Or almost. There's a musical borrowing right at the end of Act I, which came in virtually by accident during rehearsals. But you can't expect Mehta to learn about that; there should not be too many recognition problems."

After *Fledermaus* and the revival of last summer's highly successful *Fanciulla del West* Zubin Mehta returns to his two American orchestras, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, which he is in his last season as Music Director, and the New York Philharmonic, where he goes later in the year. The key

date on the West Coast is February 5, when Horowitz will play Tchaikovsky's Third Piano Concerto with Mehta and the LA Philharmonic, his first concert appearance there for many years. What plans has Mehta for the East Coast?

"My intention for the first two years is to devote myself to the broad-and-butter repertory, the great strength of the leading American orchestras is their versatility; they can switch from Mozart to Debussy to Wagner and on to Sam Barber with ease, which eludes the more specialised Europeans. My repertory is basically germanic and that will be the main sound coming from the New York Philharmonic."

More than once Mehta has been tipped as the musical director of a leading opera house. Will the tipsters one day be proved right?

"Perhaps, but not yet. The New York Philharmonic is a major institution and I will not be adding to that. Maybe I'll be better fitted when I've done my first Ring, that starts in Florence in 1979 and goes through until 1981. I'm also conducting in the Vienna, starting in 1980. Both are new productions. I've made no secret that I'm going to Florence to learn the work. Let's be honest. But for the moment Zubin Mehta is in London and as the programme stands he will be the only opera conductor heard at Covent Garden for the next season."

"It's that is? Now you're working fine."

The wrinkles at the corners of the eyes suggested that on this occasion honesty was deserting Mehta for a few seconds.

John Higgins

## Washington: Behind Closed Doors BBC 1

Alan Coren

Of all the great cultural bequests made by Richard Milhous Nixon, there is none for which we should be more grateful than his validation of melodrama as reality. If manufacturers of soap operas can walk tall today, it is only because Richard Nixon walked that world before them. Ten years ago, we should have dismissed *Washington Behind Closed Doors* as hokum; today, we recognize it as truth.

For Tricky Dicky and his Gang lived pulp lives. We have

## A Christmas Carol Young Vic

Irving Wardle

Whether or not Denise Coffey intended this as a straight adaptation, its effect in Thursday's matinee was one of half-hearted burlesque.

For this, Mario Tardito's costumes must take some of the blame: Marley's ghost, for instance, clanks out of the shadows as a plump juvenile in a green follow spot, closely followed by the diminutive spectre of Christmas Past, with a blond wig down to his eyes, carrying what seems to be an old gramophone

## English Concert Wignmore Hall

Thomas Walker

Trevor Pinnock's English Concert can always be counted on to brighten a dull evening with wholesome and earnestly authentic music-making. That the nights of the present week are particularly bleak from the standpoint of concert life probably helped in rounding up the oversized crowd that followed them to the Wignmore Hall on Thursday evening.

The group itself was present in more than usual numbers, in the with their efforts to establish a proper baroque orchestra

phone home. Christmas Yet To Come arrives in a hooded white sheet, waving a limp arm towards Scrooge's gravestone, which clatters into position as Scrooge has seen it without waiting for the lights to dim.

Stage management is not the strongest feature of Paul Marcus's production. There is precious little difference between Scrooge's office and his bedroom, but the scene change comes over like a ton of bricks. Marley's ghost is equipped with a stereo echo, which promptly sheds its eerie effect as soon as it picks up Scrooge's voice more than Rezzaglio, who to get the party going with a

using period instruments. Their programme drew exclusively from the concert repertoire, with such seasonally appropriate gems as the 'Christmas' priate gems as the 'Christmas' concertos of Corelli and Monteverdi (the latter a 'chimes' should judge) and 'Winter' from Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

That the orchestra is still experiencing growing pains was evident particularly in the first half. Corelli, with whose concerto the concert opened, would have been a better choice, but it was not size that accounted for the often tentative ensemble. Intonation, too, will certainly improve in time, though I do not wish to give the impression that it was gravely deficient.

The rhythmic energy that

musical punniness of violin playing while the strains of 'Sir Roger de Coverley' steal upon us from a distant part of the house.

Miss Coffey has coloured the evening with a few games, and even a Punch and Judy show, but such is the inventiveness of the direction that these serve only to hold up the action and create blank areas of non-response as the waltz and waltz for Scrooge to grasp the obvious. He is played by Terence Frisby, a skilled comic actor, who comes briefly into his own when he finally collapses in March over the office table, his will to carry the smaller conviction as an overgrown employer or patrician-stricken dresser.

characters. Pinnock's keyboard playing would be very strong, the orchestra with generally fine results, though he would do well to relax a bit. He rushed both slow and fast movements of Handel's Organ Concerto Op. 4 No 5; the Bach D minor double concerto also had its motor revved up to the danger point. Though soloists, Sherrin Stange and John Hollingsworth showed no sign of oversteering.

The best items were lively performances of the more mentioned Vivaldi concerto, with a perhaps even too frosty Stange as solo violinist, and the same composer's Concerto Grosso Op. 3 No 11, full of life. Come spring the orchestra will, I have no doubt, have blossomed.

## The Point Mermaid

Ned Charllet

Since Harry Nilsson's musical, *The Point*, has twice been seen on BBC television as an American cartoon and I know of at least one primary school that teaches it, it can come as no surprise to many people that the point of the Pointless Forest is everything but a point.

The one apparent exception to the rule of the point is the lead, Ohio, who, though adored by the point-headed citizens, is banished to the indignation of the law. It is Ohio's journey through the Pointless Forest that makes the tale and provides the impetus for Mr Nilsson's songs.

Although his encounters with the Ballroom people and the Rock people are a long way from Alice's encounters in Wonderland, and his progress touches no depths of horror, surrealism or excitement to equal the adventures of Bunyan's pilgrim, I think I can see why the good-natured liberalism of the story has its followers. But, though Mr Nilsson's songs are adept, there is simply not enough of a book as adapted by Ron Pember and Bernard Miles from the television programme, written by Norman Lerner, to give more than the old flash of dramatic ingenuity.

This year, with performances by Davy Jones and Micky Dolenz, there is an emphasis on the singing which is all to the good. Nevertheless, when the songs begin and the voices stop coming from the stage and start blaring out of loudspeakers at the sides, there is an alienating effect which does not help at all.

Mr Jones, however, as Ohio, and Mr Dolenz as his unsuccessful suitor, the Count's Kid, prove themselves most entertainingly. With other performances in Colin Bennett's production also on the lively side, notably Felix Rice as a fire-eating and soulful Rockman and David Clardie as the manipulator of Ohio's pet dog, Arrow, a clever puppet, it makes a better children's show than most of this year's crop.

## GLC South Bank Concert Halls

A Greater London Council enterprise. Director: George Mann OBE. Tickets: £25-£100. Telephone bookings not accepted on Sunday. Information: 025 3002. For enquiries when postal bookings have already been made, call 025 3072. S.A.E. with postal application.

### ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN SINGING London Chorus. Conducted by Sir David Willmott. The London Chorus. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

### QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

IVAN STEPANOV and his BALALAIKA and DANCERS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

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TUESDAY 2 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SATURDAY 20 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SUNDAY 21 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
MONDAY 22 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
TUESDAY 23 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 24 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
THURSDAY 25 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
FRIDAY 26 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SATURDAY 27 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SUNDAY 28 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
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MONDAY 29 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
TUESDAY 30 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 31 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

### PURCELL ROOM

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SATURDAY 20 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SUNDAY 21 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 24 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
THURSDAY 25 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
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QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SATURDAY 27 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SUNDAY 28 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
MONDAY 29 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
TUESDAY 30 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 31 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

## Wigmore Hall

Manager: William Lymington 20p a year. Tickets: 12p from Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St., W1R 0AL (01-935 2141) or Kew Palace and other agents.

THE NEW EXCELSIOR TALKING MACHINE  
TUESDAY 2 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
JESSE NORMAN (soprano), DALTON BALDWIN (piano), Mainly Schubert. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
TUESDAY 2 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 3 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ALL SEATS SOLD. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
THURSDAY 4 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
FRIDAY 5 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SATURDAY 6 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SUNDAY 7 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
MONDAY 8 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
TUESDAY 9 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 10 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
THURSDAY 11 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
FRIDAY 12 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SATURDAY 13 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
SUNDAY 14 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
MONDAY 15 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
TUESDAY 16 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
WEDNESDAY 17 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
THURSDAY 18 JAN. 7.30 p.m.  
ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
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ATARAH'S BAND CHILDREN'S FUN CONCERTS. Tickets: £25-£100. (All others sold). Raymond Gubby

### WIGMORE MASTER CONCERTS

TONIGHT at 7.30 p.m.  
NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT  
NEW EXCELSIOR TALKING MACHINE  
regime band directed by JAMES TYLER

TOMORROW at 7.30 p.m.  
MAYUMI FUJIKAWA violin  
MICHAEL ROLL piano  
For details see Wigmore Hall poster

HAROLD HOLT LIMITED present  
DEBENHAMS CONCERTS  
AT THE WIGMORE HALL

PETER PEARS  
MURRAY PERAHIA  
5 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
6 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
7 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
8 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
9 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
10 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
11 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
12 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
13 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
14 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
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28 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
29 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
30 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas  
31 JANUARY SCHUBERT: Violin Sonatas

HAROLD HOLT LIMITED present  
DEBENHAMS CONCERTS  
AT THE WIGMORE HALL

CLIFFORD CURZON  
GABRIELI QUARTET  
SCHUBERT  
Concert in D minor, 'Death and the Maiden'  
Mozart in A major, Op. 44, No. 2 and 4  
Larghetto in A major, Op. 44, No. 2 and 4  
Quartet in A major, Op. 44, No. 2 and 4  
WEDNESDAY, 25 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.  
£1.00, £1.50, £2.25, £3.00 from Box Office (01-935 2141) & Agents

HAROLD HOLT LIMITED present  
DEBENHAMS CONCERTS  
AT THE WIGMORE HALL

CLIFFORD CURZON  
GABRIELI QUARTET  
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£1.00, £1.50, £2.25, £3.00 from Box Office (01-935 2141) & Agents

## ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

### London Festival Ballet

Artistic Director Deryl Grey, C.B.E.  
Until 14 January  
Ronald Hynd's spectacular production  
**THE NUTCRACKER**

Designed by Peter Duchenbury Lighting by John D. Reed  
Sponsored by National Westminster Bank  
Until 7 January. Tickets: £5.00-£7.50  
9 to 11 January Evenings 7.30. Matinee 14 January at 3.00  
£5.00, £5.50, £6.00, £6.50, £7.00, £7.50, £8.00, £8.50, £9.00, £9.50, £10.00, £10.50, £11.00, £11.50, £12.00, £12.50, £13.00, £13







## Travel Destination 1978



The lure of the Greek islands: fishing boats tug at their moorings in Symi harbour.

Time, now, to shuck off the old year and welcome the new. To forsake old habits and make new resolutions. To put away old stories and turn over new leaves. Time, if you are a travel journalist, to set aside the adjectives and try to play the role of seer. What does 1978 have in store? I can make some guesses that should not fall too short of the mark. Some generalisations and some specific observations.

More people will take holidays abroad, as they find themselves with the necessary cash to spare and in this respect the holiday trade will benefit as will other mop-up-of "disposable income". Indeed, the holiday market is likely to increase in 1978 and in 1979 as controls are relaxed. The tour companies have cautiously expanded their programmes in anticipation and spent in optimistic mood. With a couple of exceptions, there are no cash discounts offered to encourage early bookings—certainly not like the near-panic which gripped the travel trade 12 months ago. The tour operators seemed prepared to live with the fact that holiday bookings are being made later.

There has been talk within the travel trade of a shortage of charter flight seats (a figure of 350,000 short has been described as conservative) and this could mean a conspicuous absence or late appearance of programmes like the Thomson "Wanderer" holidays. Introduced as a means of "topping up" underused flights, they are not likely to be needed in 1978.

Though prospects look pleasing there are some problems areas—problems for the travel trade, that is, and not for us on the buying side of the business. Indeed, we stand to benefit.

In the first place, the trade's carefully-formulated protection scheme has been whittled away by the Restrictive Practices Act and the legislation which will apply from April 1. It is the kind of price maintenance and trading methods at present practised and could bring about discounting of package holidays. Though tour companies and travel agents make great play of their happy business relationship and insist that nobody will upset trading agreements, it is likely that tour companies will turn a blind eye to discounting. If not, actively encourage some agents by supplying them with suitably low-priced "stock" (in much the same way as airlines—loudly protesting their innocence—dump cut-price tickets on to the bucket shop market).

Already there are signs that "unproductive" agents are being cut off the tour companies' lists as they clear the decks for this kind of action. I fear that 1978 is not going to

be a good year for your friendly neighbourhood travel agent.

What also affects the 1978 market is the appearance of the Danish company Tjærborg, about whom I wrote in November. Its newspaper and television advertising campaign begins within a day or two and will rock the price maintenance boat to the point of capsizing, as well as infuriate the aforementioned travel agents.

Tjærborg is selling package holidays to Spain, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Norway and Denmark at prices which undercut its rivals by an average of 18 per cent. Savings of up to 58 per cent are available on holidays in the low season. And the company sells direct to the public with the slogan "cut the cost by cutting out the travel agent".

It is not so much the size of the Tjærborg invasion—a mere 29,000 holidays, but with

ample room for expansion—that upsets the travel trade, as the fact that the direct sell benefits is being exploited so blatantly. Tjærborg says publicly what other companies must privately will not be slow to use the Danes as an excuse for more aggressive direct selling—or to justify the discount selling through selected agents I mentioned earlier.

When the feathers have stopped flying, what will all this mean for us, the customers? It will mean the chance to shop around for the best price for our chosen holiday, just as we do with other products. And it will mean that, to survive, travel agents will have to learn almost foreign skills. The skills they practised before the package holiday came along. The ability to create a tailor made holiday for those who wish to buy it could prove to be their salvation.

So much for the general scene. I have also been gathering my thoughts about specific developments, some of which I hope to mention more fully in coming weeks. It goes almost without saying that the advent of Skytrain to New York has revolutionised the air travel scene and there is little doubt that an increased service next summer will further benefit transatlantic travellers. So, too, will the proposed Skytrain service to Los Angeles, for I do not believe that our administrators (even our administrators) are foolish enough to try the same stalling and destructive tactics on Mr F. A. Laker that left them with egg on their faces in 1977.

Tied in with this thought, and with the success of Advance Booking Charter and Advance Purchase Excursion fares to the USA and Canada, I foresee a great increase in holiday traffic to these two countries. (And a

great opportunity for the depressed travel agent to sell "add on" holiday arrangements that may be linked to the air fares.)

There is talk—to be fair, there is always talk—of the introduction of ABC and APEX fares within Europe, but I doubt if 1978 will see anything more than a slight move in that direction. However, APEX fares are to be introduced between Britain and Ireland from April 1. A London-Dublin APEX return of £24 represents a saving of £24 on the ordinary return fare, and similar savings will be available from Manchester, Leeds and Bradford, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Liverpool.

As for particular destinations which I believe may succeed in 1978, I think they are best dealt with in more detail in coming weeks—the Greek islands, the south of Italy and certainly long haul holiday areas being in my

mind. I regard it as a certainty that cut price air tickets will continue to be sold (many via the back page of this newspaper) despite the protestations of innocence and anger from the airlines, and their efforts to implement "Operation Clean Up". I think the Association of British Travel Agents may start to fall apart, and I rather hope that the International Air Transport Association will follow suit.

What I do not know is which transatlantic airline will be forced into buying a Concord to compete with British Airways and Air France. I feel certain that some airline will have to, though a great deal of American pride would have to be swallowed for it to be one of them.

Whatever happens in 1978, may I wish you a good year—and a good holiday.

John Carter

## Drink Tips for the tippler

There are so many accurate reference books on wines and spirits today that it is a little surprising how many old wives' tales still persist. People hold to so many wholly erroneous ideas about what certain wines and spirits are, how they got their names, how they should be served, that it may amuse you to try to distinguish between the true and the false in the following statements.

People are able to visit vineyards and are told a great deal at source, such as that, in Spain, sherry is not fortified at all (1), that the curious name "Blanc Fumé" for the wines of Pouilly on the Loire is because their flavour is slightly smoky (2) and that, in Alsace, an odd alcohol blend is made from the holly, which is called "houx" (3). There is also the tradition that the type of sherry known as "amontillado" gets its name because,

originally, it reminded drinkers of the wines of Montilla (4). Visitors to Germany will see that the Mosel wines are bottled in brown and the best Franconian wines in the squat green "bottle" (5) but they may not realise that the tallest of all tapering bottles is the "Boute d'Alsace" (6) and those travelling in Champagne are probably unaware that the pressure behind a cork of the supreme sparkling wine is equivalent to that in the tyre of a double-decker bus (7). In Champagne, too, they may be offered the odd drink, ratatouille, which gets its name because it was an eighteenth-century fashionable dipple with ratatouille biscuits (8).

Scots have always naturally drunk quantities of the claret, Chateau Montrose, because of its former association with the great Marquis of Montrose, champion of the Stuart cause

(9) and they also enjoy the white of the Black Hills, which until recently belonged to the firm producing White Horse whisky (10). However, Scots visiting the oyster beds in the Gironde or anywhere else are careful never to drink whisky with them, as the combination of oysters and Scotch can result in severe food poisoning (11), and meals that include both Champagne and port have the same result (12). It is also wise to remember that the excellent pick-me-up and digestive, Fernet Branca, possesses aphrodisiac properties (13) and that, if you are unfortunate to suffer from a hangover by drinking too much ouzo, the remedy is quantities of yoghurt (14).

But you will not risk any unpleasant after-effects if you remember that, in general, white wine is weaker than red (15), that vin rosé is weaker than either (16), and that you

nullify the effect of the alcohol in Champagne if you use a medicine stick to take the bubbles out (17).

Conventions about serving wine are usually simply the ways in which it is likely to taste at its best, but sometimes there have been odd historical associations. The Jacobites used to toast the Stuart king "over the water"—passing their glasses across the water jug or bowl—in clear (18), but the Whigs and followers of "Dunk William" preferred port (19), which they circulated from right to left, so that the guest of honour had the first taste of the port (20). This tradition of the Royal Toast being drunk in port, the company standing, was altered for the Royal Navy, when George III, dining aboard, bumped his head when rising to reply, so that the Navy now sat to honour the Toast (21). However, the ceremony of the Lov-

ing Cup, observed at certain times to this day, involves three people standing up, the one drinking, the one being toasted—and one standing with his or her back to the person drinking, so as to prevent a recurrence of a medieval association of a feast when the drinker, with both hands on the handles of the cup, was stabbed in the back (22).

1. False. All sherry is fortified, although some may only have a light fortification and some may have an additional fortification before being shipped.  
2. False. "Blanc Fumé" is the local name for the Sauvignon grape.  
3. True. 4. True.  
5. True. 6. True. 7. True. 8. False. The name "ratatouille" comes from the Latin phrase "ut rosa fin", used to conclude a legal agreement, after which the parties would share a drink.  
9. False. The name Montrose has nothing to do

with Scotland, probably deriving from the heather which used to cover the hill.  
10. True. 11. False. Chateau Montrose is a red wine, nothing to do with a white wine.  
12. False. 13. False. Although many Italians believe it to be true, 14. True—water will increase the action of the alcohol.  
15. Both false. 16. False. 17. False. The swizzle stick merely removes bubbles that it has taken time and skill to put there—it does not flatten the wine and has no effect on the alcoholic content. 18. True. 19. True. 20. False. Port is traditionally circulated from left to right, but the host is allowed a backhandier. 21. True. 22. True.

Pamela Vandyke Price

## Gardening

### Don't catch a cold this year

All in all, 1977 was a good gardening year—rain, at the right times, and in the right amounts, is the gardener's friend and in the year gone by we had rain pretty well whenever we wanted it. As a result, our annual flowers, summer and autumn vegetables and soft fruits flourished.

In many districts apples and pears performed poorly. There were plenty of flower buds but no floral parts inside. Presumably the drought last summer caused many trees not to perform normally at the time buds were forming in July and August. By contrast, soft fruits did very well and there has been a splendid show of berries of all kinds on hollies, cornus, pyracantha and the like. This I assume was due to plenty of rain just after the berries had set which saved them from dropping off and which swelled them generously.

If there is a lesson from 1977's weather it is to remind us of the importance of timely watering with heavy fruits for example we should apply the water if required as soon as the fruits have set and started to swell.

It was indeed fortuitous that we had such regular and generous rains after the 1976 drought. If we had not had a predominantly rainy year many plants that surprised us by surviving the drought might well not have done so.

All has not, however, been on the credit side. The Dutch elm disease continues to spread and it is now thought

that half the elms in England have died and now there is the threat to our beeches. In the United States when we were there in October, there was much sadness because of a disease that has killed large numbers of chestnut trees.

We missed the autumn colour in England but we caught it absolutely right in Canada, Virginia and in New York State. Indeed our friends said it was the most spectacular they could ever remember and we could hardly believe our eyes when we saw the richness of sunset and gold of oaks and maples, pecans, tulip trees and, of course, the dogwoods which never perform for us as they do in America. If only one could be sure that the autumn colour would be so spectacular and know exactly which weeks to go and see it, I am sure special autumn colour tours of the eastern states of America would be highly popular.

The Americans and Canadians we thought appreciated their trees even more than we do. To be honest one does get a little tired of the national Canadian emblem but one is lost in admiration for the imaginative tree plantings around Toronto and in Philadelphia, Virginia and Albany.

In Philadelphia many streets are named after trees and in Albany they must have been very old conscious at some time, because they have Eagle, Swan, Dove, Quail, Robin and Partridge Streets, also Elk and Beaver.

It certainly does seem rather more attractive to name streets after plants or birds than after some local character with very often a less than euphonious name. In England I was glad to discover the other day that on one of the new estates many streets are named after trees.

Now we must turn our thoughts to 1978. We must remember the old saying: "As days lengthen, so cold strengthens". So we should check on our precautions against cold spells. It always fear the last week or 10 days of January as so often a cold spell may begin then.

As to the prospects of a fine show of blossoms in the coming spring and summer, it seems that these are good. Ornamental trees and shrubs also fruit trees have made a lot of new growth and formed good flower buds. Now we must hope for a kind spring—not too far to bring flowers out too early and without nasty late frosts at flowering time.

It is interesting to compare the soil temperature at Wisley in Surrey this year and last. On Christmas day 1976 they were: at 10cms (approx 1ft) 1°C (34°F); in 1977, 6.6°C (45°F). At 100cms (approx 3ft) they were 6.1°C (43°F); in 1977, 8.2°C (46.5°F). At least we start the New Year with a rather more healthy reserve of heat in the soil than we did last year.

I am afraid I have not yet been able to adjust to today's prices, transport costs or modern marketing methods. I still

tend to remember the days when a "farmer's ordinary" lunch in the pub cost half a crown. In the not so old days, when I was a boy, we would need for the year in the way of garden sundries at the same time as we ordered our seeds in January—the string, labels, cages and all the other bits and pieces we need to keep a garden going.

But nowadays carriage costs are frightening and we tend to live from hand to mouth as regards these items, buying them as we need them from the hardware shop or garden centre. This may save postage but not necessarily time or temper because it is infuriating to start a job say on a Saturday afternoon and then find you have run out of the bits and pieces you need.

If you can compile a list of your needs for the ensuing season, and even better combine your order with that of a neighbour it makes sense to have the whole lot sent in one consignment. The best catalogue of garden tools, equipment and garden sundries generally that comes my way is that of Joseph Bentley Ltd, Barrow in Humber, South Humberside, DN19 7AQ. It runs to over 120 large pages and includes practically every item you could possibly need for the garden—apart, of course, from plants and seeds. The 1977-78 catalogue will be available in January.

Jobs for January.

Check snow and frost precautions. Make sure, sand, chinker ash, or salt are handy to put

on steps, paths or drives in case of a freeze up and slippery surfaces.

Check all items in store—fruit, corns, tubers, dahlias and the rest. Any showing signs of rotting remove at once.

Watch particularly for mice in frames and greenhouses and stores. Set traps with milk chocolate and melon seed, or even a broad bean seed. Last year the mice robbed my plantings in July 7's of broad bean seeds in a cold frame unmercifully. Then it occurred to me to bait a trap with a broad bean seed and we caught a mouse every night.

Cover rhubarb plants with straw, leaves or bracken, or even better put an old dust bin, a large box or tea chest over the plants and pack it round with a foot thick layer of leaves. In a month you should be pulling rhubarb.

Finish pruning fruit trees and apply a tar oil winter spray and while you are at it spray fences, posts and gates to control algae.

Bring bulbs indoors if you have had them plunged in peat outdoors.

Set up seed potatoes to sprout in a light frost free place.

Send for seed catalogues. Those I have received so far are from the following firms. If you are interested please keep this list by you because in future articles I will be mentioning some of the better new varieties of flowers and

vegetables and the firms who offer them.

Buchner's Selected Seeds, 60 Wickham Road, Shirley, Croydon CR9 8AG, Surrey.  
Cranford Ltd, Cudon Mill, Chelmsford CM2 6PD, Essex.  
Samuel Dobie and Son Limited, Upper Mills, Llangollen, Clwyd LL20 8SD.  
S. E. Marshall and Co Ltd, Regal Road, Wexhamham Lane, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 2RF.  
The Scottish Seed House (Alexander & Brown), PO Box No 13, South Meadow Street, Perth PE1 5NY, Scotland.  
Suttons Seeds Ltd, Hele Road, Torquay, Devon TQ2 7QJ.  
Thompson & Morgan (Ipswich) Ltd, London Road, Ipswich IP1 0BA.  
W. J. Unwin Ltd, Histon, Cambridge.

Roy Hay

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## FIVE YEARS ON

"Sorry son, but the EEC have banned Christmas." The image of the European Community depicted recently in a cartoon in the *Evening Standard* still dominates the minds of many people. Thin-faced foreign bureaucrats in Brussels are imagined conspiring to interfere with British beer and sausages and turn us all into standardized metric Europeans. Meanwhile we must support inefficient French farmers, suffer competition from over-efficient German industries, and worry about whether the feeble Italians will vote communist. Although five years of membership should have done much to dispel these impressions, apparently they have done little.

So, perhaps reassurance is necessary when at midnight tonight Britain slips quietly out of the five-year transitional period into full membership. Hardly anyone will have cause to notice. Most remaining tariffs went in July. The workings of the common agricultural policy have become so complex that 'tomorrow's changes will be scarcely visible except on paper and in butter (according to the Community British food prices could rise by one penny in the pound if the effects are passed on to the consumer). There will be changes in Britain's power to act against dumping and to take certain emergency measures but on the whole there will be no dramatically new scenery. The Community has proved more flexible and slower moving than many people expected. Adapting to it has not been as painful or difficult as many feared.

But if the worst fears of its critics have not been realized, nor have the highest hopes of its friends. The visionaries and the federalists and those who hoped for a powerful revival of British industry have all been disappointed. Mr Jenkins's call for monetary union has been filed away with other pious hopes—'as he himself has said. The concept of a 'great Britain' prevails. Great ideas are not in demand. What is emerging, as Michael Shanks wrote in *The Times* yesterday, is a 'loose functional confederation'. So were the anguished debates and political disputes which accompanied Britain's awkward shuffle into the Community really relevant? Has not membership proved much more prosaic and less disruptive than predicted? Was it even worth the trouble?

No balance sheet can show clear material profit or loss over

the past five years. Britain was unlucky to join at a time when many things were going wrong at home and abroad. Rising commodity prices, surging wage demands and other factors swept the country into a period of dangerous inflation and foreign deficits. Many people blamed the Community and continue to do so but in some respects the Community may have helped cushion the effects. Britain's gross budget contribution was £2,039m during the five years of transition. On top of that there was a contribution of about £200m to the capital of the European Investment Bank and a levy of 0.25 per cent on the turnover of the coal and steel industries. But in return there were loans and grants worth about £2,000m which contributed to industrial modernization, retraining and job-creation. There was also a substantial flow of green pounds. Probably if contributions from the regional development fund and the Investment Bank are fully valued there has been a net gain.

On the other hand the main material advantage held out for membership has not accrued. British industry was supposed to rise to the challenge of the open European market and revive accordingly. It has not done so. Europe has been in recession and Britain has remained inefficient. Although exports are now improving, the sense of failure cannot be wholly dispelled. Yet membership of the Community is certainly not responsible for Britain's failures.

The main gains from membership are of a less tangible kind. Britain is now slowly acquiring the habit of thinking in European terms, making the European dimension of policies into account, comparing its experiences and institutions with those of fellow Europeans, and working with Europeans in forming foreign policy. All this is valuable. Even if most members of the Community seem more concerned with advantage than cooperation the need to maintain institutions and consult with one another has become a scarcely questioned fact of European life, with particularly noticeable results in foreign policy. To imagine Europe without the Community or the Community without Britain now means stretching the mind into areas of diminishing plausibility.

Thus a certain accommodation with scepticism and gradualism does not denote failure. The idealism which forged a tight little community in the after-

math of the war, primarily to contain West Germany and cement the reconciliation with France, could scarcely be expected to drive the larger and more diverse structure which is now emerging. To this extent the Community is facing the penalties of its own success, and it will face more as it becomes enlarged. One foreseeable result is that the idea of a federal Europe will fade so far into the distance that it will no longer be seriously debated. It will be too far off to frighten those who fear it or to inspire those who want it. The loss will be felt on both sides of the debate, but it will allow changes to be made in the habits and institutions of the Community in ways more directly related to practical needs.

The agenda is very full. Direct elections are still urgently required, and it is a pity that Britain is dragging its feet. They will not lead towards federalism. They should enable the European Parliament to act as a more effective and democratic check on the Commission. They may also give individual voters a feeling of closer involvement in European politics. Next there is the problem of enlargement—economically difficult, especially where Spain is concerned, but politically vital, and a challenge the Community must take head on. The restoration of democracy in Greece, Portugal and Spain is one of the most encouraging recent developments in Europe and it owes more than a little to the political pulling power of the Community, which must therefore not back away from its responsibilities.

In the broader aspects of foreign policy there are also new problems emerging. The Community has been relatively successful in reaching common positions—in Belgrade, for instance, and in the north-south dialogue. It has even made itself felt in South Africa through its code of conduct for European companies. It is going to find itself increasingly forced to look outwards in this way. It will have to relate its own industrial restructuring to the wider problems of trade with developing countries to which labour-intensive industries are moving. All this will help put the Community in proper perspective. It is not just about tariffs or regional aid funds. It is about the wider purposes of the community of European nations. Britain should enter its first year as a full member with these higher purposes in mind.

## DR LEAVIS AND MR JONES

If sobriety is the hallmark of a Callaghan honours list in respect of political honours, catholicity marks the choice of those singled out in the fields of arts and letters. It is a pleasure to peruse a list which honours (with suitable gradations) Miss Isobel Baillie, Mr Peter Pears, Miss Jean Rhys, Mr Tom Stoppard, and the two Ronnies. But the section of the list which suggests that whatever else the honours system may die of it will not be hardening of the arteries is the Order of Companions of Honour. It contains two names, Mr Jack Jones and Dr F. R. Leavis. It would be hard to find another pair who have trodden two such different paths to two such different kinds of recognition, having only their pugnacity, their measure of influence, and their deserts in common.

General secretaries of the Transport and General Workers Union usually step down (or up?) to the Cabinet table or the House of Lords. They have recently acquired the sort of expectations that Attorneys General acquired long ago. Mr Jones's enrolment among Companions of Honour may have something to do with the fact that it does not encumber him with anything so unrepresentative of general workers as a peerage or a handle to his name.

Dr Leavis's is a belated honour. It comes to him in his eighty-third year. He has for a long time laboured under a conviction that his own university of Cambridge withheld from him the full preferment and recognition that was his due; and he would not find some extra satisfaction in sporting in his CH an implied rebuke by the establishment proper of the petty establishment in Cambridge.

Such are his infuriating methods of controversy, the viscosity of much of his writing, and the tendency for *furor scholasticus* to break out around him, that it is hard to get the true measure of his contribution. Building on the critical writings of Dr I. A. Richards and T. S. Eliot, he became the leading figure in a school of literary criticism whose recurrent manifesto was the *Journal Scrutiny*. The influence of the school was wide and deep before, during and after the Second World War.

It operated at two levels: by dissemination of a new form of academic literary criticism through the missionary activity of its disciples in universities throughout the English-speaking world; and by promoting a revolution in taste, a new literary sensibility, and a new critical technique was close reading of the text, rigorous

attention to the meaning and texture of the writing, the significance of the work being the impression thereby made on the mind of the reader. As Dr Leavis and others developed it, it gave original reappraisals of lasting importance. With that went a new order of literary importance related to the moral substance of the work in question (George Eliot before Dickens, Lawrence before everything).

Further than that, Dr Leavis teaches that the critical study of literature is of importance not only as a discipline but as a social and moral force, an antidote to the debased values fostered by acquisitive industrial society; that the study of literature is capable of forming, and should be made, the core of liberal education, the primary agency for the transmission of cultural values; that its place is that, once occupied by Newman for theology, Dr Leavis's exalted view of the study of literature, this high seriousness of purpose, is reminiscent of Victorian England, though the mannerisms accompanying it are not. Matthew Arnold on a bicycle. His special combination of exaltation and rigour is falling out of fashion again, though Dr Leavis has continued to preach it as fiercely as ever. He is most happily honoured for it.

## Kilometres all the way

From Colonel Grenville Steel  
Sir, The news today that an announcement will shortly be made of the Government's intention to introduce the metric system on our roads is probably the first indication to the general public that this is a mandatory obligation on this country by the EEC.

You, Sir, have published a leading article (December 29) on the subject in a fairly light-hearted vein. Even so, you point out that the only advantage therein will accrue to foreign visitors, and you hint at the enormous cost which will fall largely on local authorities. Metrication in other matters may have been of some help to exporters, but there can be no justification for changing our miles to kilometres. The United States, with a metric currency, still sticks to yards and miles. Few if any people when asked for the EEC realized such an implication. I cannot believe that it is too late for a general expression of angry protest to stop this stupidity. Yours faithfully, GREVILLE STEEL, Stable Cottage, Southrop Lodge, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

## Licensing photocopying

From Mr Eugene Gros  
Sir, Professor B. Z. Beinart and his colleagues (Letters, December 24) have "No supporting evidence" that "library copying is seriously affecting subscriptions to learned journals and other specialized periodicals". I shall be glad to make such evidence available for commercially published, unsubsidized specialized journals which are translated from foreign languages into English.

My firm publishes several such journals (translated from Russian). Unlike authors, specialized translators have no prestige or other special interest in whether given work is published. They demand and get the normal commercial rate for their work. As an example I note the following facts about one of our journals, the only one, incidentally, to which Prof Beinart's university subscribes: the annual volume of this journal totals approximately 2,500 pages, with about one million words in translation. As a rough guide, the total cost of such a low circulation publication is in the order of about £35 per thousand printed words. There is no advertising and consequently no income from such a source. It

therefore follows that subscription rates must be relatively high and that our subscribers have to pay the price.

In such a case there is a great temptation to borrow and photocopy. We have offered time and again to subscribers second and third copies at vastly reduced prices but there are very few takers; we assume the reason for this is photocopying. Even the copies which we supply free of charge as copyright copies are not immune from being photocopied.

I am sure that if Prof Beinart and his colleagues examine the records of their own university they will find that copies of the other six of our journals—to which they are not subscribing—are borrowed from other libraries and freely used in photocopy form. I would appreciate convincing evidence that this is not the case. Even happened that we were requested to sign forms to large industrial libraries that we allow them to photocopy from copies which they did not purchase. Yours faithfully, EUGENE GROS, Managing Director, Scientific Information Consultants Ltd, 661 Finchley Road, NW2, December 28.

## The challenge from developing nations

From Mr Caspar Brook  
Sir, Your issue of December 12 with your article on challenges to living standards in more developed countries by the less developed countries has only just arrived here. You seem to have overlooked an important point—perhaps the most important. As I write without access to statistics I can make only some general points.

The challenge to the British now (and eventually to the other 1,000 millions in the other more developed countries) will be increasingly how to cope with de-development—a process to which we have been subject for the past few years in Britain. It seems unreasonable to expect that Britons in the year 2000 will still be as mobile, as warm at home and at work, as overfed and misfed as expensively equipped with electromechanical and other artifacts and as free to make their own decisions as they are typically now.

To infer from your article that you believe that some less developed countries will reach the present/recent per capita consumption levels in the so-called more developed countries is very much a wish. It is likely that (1) the at present most developed countries will have to de-develop during the life of the foreseeable generations and (2) some of the less developed countries will develop somewhat more but to nothing like the high levels that most of us have enjoyed in the more developed countries.

Your implied faith in the continuing development (growth) of the more developed countries is already being challenged—permanent large scale unemployment and over-manning, prospective energy depletion, increasing instability of society and progressive breakdown of law and order. The quality of life of the more developed countries seems bound to deteriorate, as has been happening so clearly to the more developed countries.

Yours faithfully, CASPAR BROOK, PO Box No 322, Khartoum, Sudan, December 18.

## Contact with South Africa

From Mr M. C. Tarver  
Sir, I am a former master at the Diocesan College in Cape Town, and only a very busy and of term prevented my writing to you at the appropriate time about the cancellation of the Dulwich vs Bishop's match. The letter published today (December 28) from Mr C. D. Hoare has prompted me once again.

We do not, in this country, spend hundreds of thousands of pounds to enable our young to travel to other countries and learn about the way of life there? Does not the DES encourage foreign exchanges? Is it not generally agreed that travel broadens the mind? Is not the future peace of the world partly dependent upon the nations young getting to know one another?

If these things be so, how can anyone consider it sensible to prevent young South Africans (black, white or mixed) from having as wide a contact as possible with peoples of other nations? Surely, we would like to enable them to compare our country with theirs? Or are we afraid of the competition?

There are two sickening ironies in this sorry business. The first is that we have been the ones to act bilaterally (what would have been the outcry had Pretoria refused to allow a black team to play?). The second is that schools like Bishop's need all the support we can give—they are on our side, as it were!

It is certainly not "fair play" as a underpin that allows a visit to the Aland Islands and reduces to a minimum (if it cannot scotch altogether) the contact young South Africans would have with us. Yours faithfully, M. C. TARVER, 30 Marlborough Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

## Morality of large units

From Mr D. S. Deacon  
Sir, Your leading article "The Rights and Wrongs of Striking" (Wednesday, December 28) richly emphasises the necessity to focus attention on the problems which affect often do not appear to be consistent with a moral society.

I suggest that the situation we face is the inevitable result of a society which for too long has tolerated corporate philosophies, whether by reason of large industrial organizations both public and private; or by trade unions; or by governments themselves in the support which they give to the latter. The result is a concentration of the increase in both size and numbers of bureaucratic institutions. Until we can replace those philosophies by those which allow more freedom of expression to, and place more responsibility for action on the individual, this situation is bound to continue.

There is a lot of wisdom in the remark attributed to Lord Thurley in the eighteenth century: "Did you ever expect a corporation to have a conscience, when it has no soul to be damned and no body to be kicked?" Yours faithfully, D. S. DEACON, 72 Hartley Crescent, Merseyside.

## Appeals against lenient sentences

From Mr M. D. Shaffner

Sir, I am sorry to disagree with a professional colleague (Mr M. J. Rose, *The Times*, December 28) but I would be strongly opposed to any proposal that the prosecution should be given the right to challenge a sentence on the grounds of undue leniency. The alternative suggestion that the prosecution should merely seek a declaration that the sentence was inadequate would, in my view, be a waste of time, or another and serve no useful purpose.

I head a team of 38 solicitors acting for one of the great metropolitan police forces and county councils. It is fundamentally inherent in the role of a prosecutor that the result of a case is of secondary importance. To become involved as to the sentence imposed (legal defects apart) is only a short step away from indicating to the court the sort of sentence with which the prosecution would be satisfied. There would also be the possible and insidious danger of influencing the way in which a case was investigated, prepared, considered and presented to the court.

It might next follow, by way of logical progression following an appeal against the leniency of a sentence, that a plea of *autrefois acquit* should no longer be accepted as a defence. No two cases are the same. No two defendants are the same. No two judges are the same. The strength of our legal system lies in its flexibility and the separation of the functions of the executive and the judiciary and to which one could add law enforcement. I doubt if we need turn to our continental neighbours to learn about the administration of justice. Sentencing is very much a subjective business. Magistrates deal with something like 98 per cent of all criminal cases. Inevitably, some sentences can be faulted for undue leniency. Equally, some can be faulted for undue severity. This pattern is also reflected in the remaining 2 per cent dealt with in the higher courts and it does not follow that an appeal tribunal would necessarily be likely to arrive at an appropriate sentence—whether that might be—since the subjective element would still remain.

There is no slide rule or scientific formula for arriving at a sentence

## Health restriction on dogs

From the President of the British Veterinary Association

Sir, Although contamination of the environment with eggs of *Toxocara canis* is reprehensible, Professor Woodruff's letter (December 29) exaggerates the dangers of human infection. The highest estimate of the prevalence of toxocara in dogs, quoted by him, shows that only one in five of the dogs passes toxocara eggs and most of these will be passing only small numbers.

A recent survey of kennel workers, who are exposed to infection more than the population at large, showed that the majority demonstrated no serological evidence of toxocara infection, and it was only a minority of long-standing workers who showed any evidence of infection. In none of these was clinical disease present which could be referable to toxocara infection.

The adult worm standards of hygiene are reasonable and stand very little chance of becoming infected with toxocara. A small number of serious infections have occurred in children and any measures which can prevent this should be implemented. The greatest risk to children derives from their association with young puppies, as young puppies and suckling bitches are the most prolific sources of toxocara eggs. Suitable anthelmintic treatment and hygienic disposal of dog faeces can reduce these risks to a negligible level.

The education of the public and taking these sensible precautions is likely to have a marked effect in preventing toxocara infection—rather than banning dogs from public places. Yours faithfully, D. L. HAXBY, President, British Veterinary Association, 21 Bedford Square, W1, December 28.

## From Mr P. Griffin

Sir, The acceptance of the principle that individuals cannot have freedom to harm others would lead to the banning, not of dogs, but of human beings from parks and from city centres wherever I go. I am surrounded by hordes of snuffling humans, without whose presence I should stand a far better chance of avoiding infectious diseases.

If Professor Woodruff thinks his remarkable principle has been accepted, let him go to the nearest picket line and think again. I see many ill around me, but very few that I can blame on dogs. Yours faithfully, PAUL GRIFFIN, 2 St Paul's Road, Cambridge.

## Mountaineering training

From Lord Hunt

Sir, Those readers of *The Times* who are interested in mountaineering, and who also believe that adventurous activities are our British mountaineers have much to offer young people, will have been distressed to read a recent article in your columns by Ronald Faux and in correspondence in *The Times* and other newspapers, which have revealed a conflict between the British Mountaineering Council and the Mountain Leadership Training Board.

The issues are complex and it is not my purpose to rehearse them in this letter. Most climbers place a high value on the traditions of their chosen leisure pastime and desire to ensure that they are truly reflected in the basic training of young people who are brought to the mountain areas to learn mountaineering. Trainers and educators are rightly concerned that all young people who are attracted to the mountains should have the opportunity to acquire the essential knowledge and skills; at the same time, they are responsible to anxious parents for the children's safety.

Given good will on both sides the present conflict is capable of solution. It is excellent news that the Alpine Club, doyen of all mountaineering clubs, has suggested a basis for sorting out the difficulties and seeking solutions. I feel sure that everyone who holds mountaineering in high regard and who wishes to see its value to the youth of the nation developed, will join on both parties to this unfortunate dispute, to accept both the offer and the eventual findings of the Alpine Club.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HUNT, Past-President, Alpine Club and the British Mountaineering Council, Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, SW7.

## Royal Ballet performance

From Mr Alexander Bland

Sir, Your Diarist, perhaps wisely, does not specify which performance of *Les Noces* by the Royal Ballet is to be performed. As I cannot comment on his (or her) opinion of it. But the poster on the affair in your issue of December 23, suggesting that professional critics find it necessary to ingratiate themselves with ballet management or dancers "is both offensive and damaging. The innuendo contained in the comment on the "eye shadow and lipstick of the male corps de ballet is equally unpleasant. Anybody familiar with the dance theatre knows that facial make up is necessary and normal under stage lighting in an opera house. Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER BLAND, 27 Victoria Road, WR.

## Take your partners

From Mr G. P. Hoole

Sir, In your guest column, December 28, Ms Marjorie Hollowood asks rhetorically: "Who has ever heard of a business entitled 'Daughters'?" In *Tonbridge* "R. A. Austin and Daughters" was an honoured name for 40 years and on the opposite side of the High Street we had "S. Funnell and Daughter". Your contributor is not with it. Yours faithfully, G. P. HOOLE, 77 The Ridgeway, Tonbridge, Kent.

## The Moors murderers

From Major M. Oliver

Sir, I read with great interest the powerful and compelling article by Bernard Levin (December 28). I had particular interest for me as I have been the advantage denied to but a few, of having studied the whole of the transcript of the trial of Ian Brady and Myra Hindley and have corresponded with both of them since the trial. As a result I have been a strong supporter of Lord Longford in his concern and anxiety to obtain overdue clemency in the case of Myra Hindley.

I don't, in this letter, wish to dwell on the legal and rules played by the two convicted in these horrific crimes—monsters, perverts are the language and cudgels of the media who must have someone to hate, national villains to be tried and sentenced to death. I am sure that the two convicted are not the same as the two convicted. I am sure that the two convicted are not the same as the two convicted. I am sure that the two convicted are not the same as the two convicted.

Myra Hindley was sentenced to life imprisonment. Those who sentenced her were many including other child murderers, after a period of usually not more than 10 years, come within the orbit of consideration for parole or to be more correct, release or licence in the case of a "lifer".

Sir Louis Fitch, Chairman of the Parole Board, advised recently: "I can think of no prisoners now inside who would be out but for public opinion." Well, I can. Myra Hindley who has already paid in very hard courage for her abominable but wicked role in the Moors murders. It is abundantly clear to anyone who has read the transcript that at the time, she was completely dominated by and deeply in love with Ian Brady and as many before, she trod the path of misplaced loyalty.

The menace of so called "public opinion" is that it is opinion based on ignorance and prejudice continually fanned by the media. The tragedy is that with Myra's case it has inevitably become politically motivated—what Home Secretary of whatever party would dare to rubber stamp the normal release of Hindley on licence? Such a release would not be invested in any one person but decided by a committee of Commissioners made up of all shades of politics. Yours faithfully, MATTHEW D. OLIVER, 30 Marlborough Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, December 26.

## The Unification Church

From Mrs Diana Jones

Sir, I am reported as having campaigned for four years to free my daughter from the Unification Church (*The Times*, December 14). I also campaign to prevent other young people from falling into the trap of joining a cult. The Unification Church is a religious movement which is undermining the normal stress and pressures of youth.

It is wise to avoid the initial approach of members used by the leaders of the Unification Church to gain recruits. The Unification Church is a religious movement which is undermining the normal stress and pressures of youth. It is wise to avoid the initial approach of members used by the leaders of the Unification Church to gain recruits. The Unification Church is a religious movement which is undermining the normal stress and pressures of youth.

## Underground to Heathrow

From Mr R. M. Robbins

Sir, It is kind of Lady Burton of Coventry (Letters, December 28) to congratulate London Transport on the new Underground link to Heathrow. But when she goes on to suggest that special arrangements should be made to accommodate at central London stations air travellers who have large amounts of baggage with them, she is asking for something that the Underground is not and cannot be equipped to provide.

It is an urban railway system designed to move large numbers of passengers, who carry with them what they can conveniently lift but who are not encumbered to the extent that they are immobile with-out assistance; and one of its essential features is that stops at stations must be short.

For these reasons, which were well understood at the time when









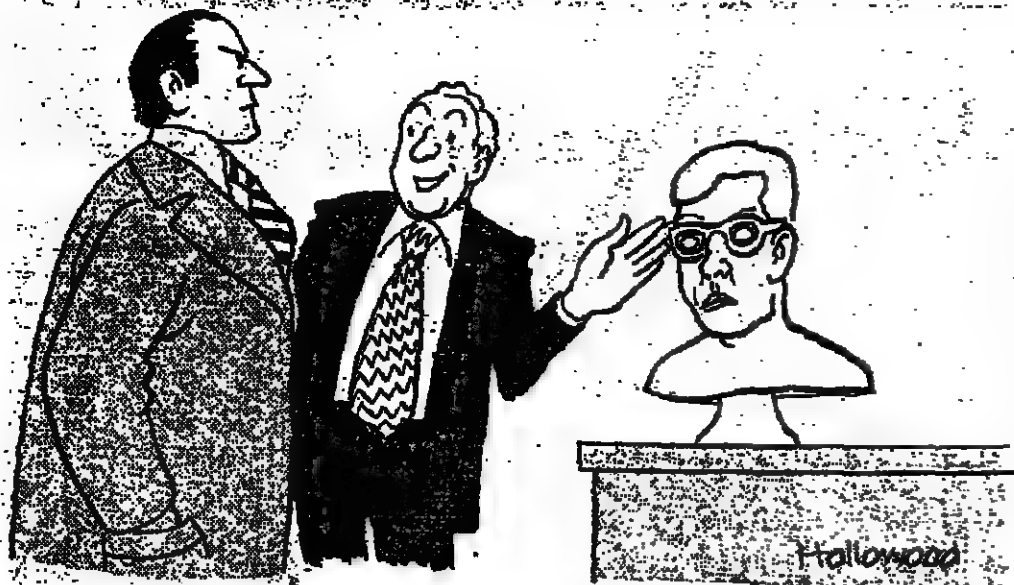






EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS



# Salutations to the shoppers

Christmas already seems a long time ago, but it will be months before I can begin to look back on one particular aspect of it without breaking out in a rash. I suppose, rather like trench warfare, that actual experience is the only thing that can convey such total horror. Which is why this article is dedicated to all those brave ladies who, without even considering the odds against them, march forth every day after day to shop in London's West End and who are already facing the pitched battles of the sales.

All I can bring myself to murmur to you is that honestly I never knew it was like that. It is not so much the huddled masses yearning to be free, most of whom are either tourists or pick-pockets or both. One can cope with that by buttoning up tight in every respect, remaining conscious of one's British superiority and putting pedlars on one's pockets.

What really got me was the more or less universally loathsome service and the hellish inevitability of never being able to find what one wanted.

In the middle of December we were regaled with stories of people spending up to £100 per child on toys for Christmas. Frankly I have no idea how they managed to find anything to spend it on.

I mean, I just wanted some plain wooden soldiers—jungle ones, not farmyard. A simple request, one might imagine, but impossible to fulfil.

I must have gone into every toyshop in London, but I still could not have plain wooden animals, unless I wanted to buy a Noah's Ark as well. And in that shop specialising in hand-carved stuff from Lower Quagmire, their folkie charm extended to not putting prices on any of the articles for sale, which meant that you had to find an assistant to tell you how much everything was before you knew whether you could afford it or not.

My own children are older and out of the toy bracket, thank heavens. But for my 12-year-old I required, among other things, a bust of Mozart because as far as he is concerned Wolfgang Rules O.K.

There is only one shop in London where you can get musical busts and Mozart had run out. "It's always the popular ones that go first," explained the man, offering me Shostakovich as a substitute.

Well, at least he did try, which is more than can be said for most of them. What I found particularly galling was when, instead of serving, they carried on their own private conversation—particularly when it was larded with criticisms of other customers ("... and then she said 'We don't have anything like this in Liverpool'"), accompanied by scornful laughter.

I am sure customers can be disabused, but I did not go for this. The man and I then went to a music shop, where I found, to my surprise, a bust of Shostakovich. It was a relief, but I was still not happy. In another of them I was struggling through the cassettes, where all the symphonies were

Francis Kinsman

## Investor's year

# Hopes still waiting to be realized

Though 1977 saw the FT ordinary index rise 36 per cent and reach its best ever level of 549.2 in doing so, the year will be remembered as a period in which the London stock market failed to live up to the best expectations of investors.

After the peak was achieved in mid-September the prospect of an upturn in interest rates, the inevitable conflict over the oil price and the growing concern over the health of some of Britain's leading industrial companies combined to erode confidence to such an extent that the index lost almost 100 points, or 17 per cent, in the last two months.

Up to the end of July the equity market made steady if unspectacular progress mainly based on Britain's slow recovery from recession, the remarkable fall in interest rates from the crisis level of the previous November and the emergence of North Sea oil as a decisive factor in economic progress.

The key to a dramatic 25 per cent rise in prices over the next seven weeks was a surprise decision by the authorities to unpeg sterling from its artificially low position against the dollar. This gave an immediate boost to sterling and in its wake share prices moved rapidly to their highest ever levels.

At that point there was a widespread belief that the index would rise to 600 and beyond, but in the event expectations of further progress proved to be well wide of the mark. Shares fell sharply and, although there has been some modest revival from lowest levels, recent strength in the gilt market has not fed through fully to equities.

From the brokers' point of view a disturbing feature of the year was the generally low level of business actually transacted. An important factor in this has been a marked reluctance to the "blue chips" was partly vindicated by a clutch of disappointing results in the autumn and the strength of sterling, which has proved a disadvantage to the big export companies.

An analysis of performance by sector shows the relative strength of consumer-oriented shares, Mail order, hire, furniture, radio and television, motor distributor and footwear

HOW THEY FARED			
SECTORS			
Best performers % change		Worst performers	
Shipbuilding .....	+175	Wires and Ropes .....	+0.4
Plant hire .....	+162	Mines .....	+3
Mail order .....	+124	Tobacco .....	+11
Hire purchase .....	+118	Chemicals .....	+12
Construction .....	+108	Oil .....	+15
Radio & television .....	+105	Floor coverings .....	+17
SHARES			
Leigh Interests .....	+827	Reed Int .....	-80
Manganese Bronze .....	+500	Westland Air .....	-28
Campani .....	+405	EMI .....	-19
Rainers .....	+370	Tate & Lyle .....	-19
British Aluminium .....	+350	Youghal Carpets .....	-18
Cap & Counties .....	+330	Ldn & O'Leary Pns .....	-16
All stocks over £25m market value.			

shares are prominent among the best performers throughout the year.

Some of the weakest included mines, tobacco, engineers, shipping and steel shares.

By comparison the gilt-edged market has been consistently stronger in 1977 with the gilt index up by about 30 per cent and some individual stocks up by as much as 50 per cent. The two main factors behind this strength were falling interest rates for most of the period and a series of economic pointers which, in the main, showed Britain slowly pulling out of recession and inflation falling to manageable proportions.

Two innovations were the variable rate bond and the partly-paid issue, which allows the Government to determine its flow of funds more precisely in advance.

David Mott

## Round-up

# The case for sickness cover

One form of insurance for which I have no hesitation in banging the drum is permanent health insurance, one of the more under-sold of insurance policies and yet arguably one of the most needed.

Its name is, of course, somewhat misleading—if it were given the more accurate title of long-term sickness insurance (providing income), then perhaps more people would be nudged into acquiring this cover. For the statistics indicate that the family breadwinner is more likely to be stricken in this way than by premature death. Yet in the majority of cases his family would be much better off if he were to die than if he were to become a long-term invalid or unable to continue in a highly paid job.

Permanent health insurance can be bought by individuals, but the trend is for employers to include it in the range of benefits offered to their workforce. As employee benefit packages as outside pay guides, it is an area where union involvement could be encouraged.

Costs vary, but as a rough estimate one can assume that a group plan will amount to about 1 per cent of the payroll.

Legal and General, which has just improved the terms of its own plan, has been doing some research into the subject. Its findings show that fewer than 2 per cent of workers belong to a group scheme, although one in three is likely to be off work for at least three months during his working life.

What is more, a Gallup survey that L & G commissioned showed that only one family in 10 believed that they could keep up their commitments for more than six months if their income was halved.

## Stock markets

# ICI warning casts its shadow

Hopes of a spirited end to 1977 were quickly dashed by ICI's report of depressed trading and its warning that a strong pound will make an impact on fourth quarter exports.

Jobs were quick to take evasive action and by 10 am the FT Index was 6.2 down. With a complete lack of interest thereafter—even for the new account—prices were not able to make a significant recovery.

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It was estimated that more than £100m of the "rap" was sold yesterday and that there could now be less than one-third of the £900m issue left after just two weeks' trading.

At the longer end stocks managed to edge ahead by one-eighth or so after spending most of the day at their overnight levels.

For the gloomy news clipped 10p from the shares at 35 1/2 while fellow exporters to suffer in sympathy included Beecham down 8p to 67p, Glaxo 7p to 59p and Fisons 5p to 38p.

The weak premium clipped 10p from the shares at 35 1/2 while fellow exporters to suffer in sympathy included Beecham down 8p to 67p, Glaxo 7p to 59p and Fisons 5p to 38p.

Breweries, the first of the sector to report in the new year, slipped 2p to 93p.

Both S Leboff 2p to 50p and Britannia Arrow 1p to 22p benefited from comment while a similar reason motivated dealer Friddle & Clarke continued to go ahead, rising another 2p for a close of 2p to 23p.

Speculative issues to suffer from profit taking included Photo-Me, off 10p to 26p, Wilkinson Match 5p to 20p and Stewart Plastics 8p to 137p. But Rentokil managed to gain of 3p to 60p on demand in a thin market which stemmed from hopes of a minority bid.

Building industry shares continued to draw strength from interest rate hopes notably Rowlinson Construction up 4p to 85p, Crouch Group, better by 7p to 72p and J. W. Henderson which added several pence for a close of 142p.

Sweet maker Tavenor Rutledge was hit by small selling in a thin market and closed 13p lower at 121p while Reed International held firm at 125p after a favourable broker's circular. Stores shares reacted from their recent gains with Gus "A" down 8p to 308p, Marks & Spencer 5p to 158p, Boots 3p to 227p and Burton "A" 3p to 112p.

Among the banks Lloyds slipped 7p to 285p, Barclays 5p to 112p.

If, as some say, the bear market in beer shares is over, Greenall Whitley should look cheap against the sector. The Northern brewer and Vindur Vodka group is benefiting from drinkers deprived of their Bass Cherrington beers. Christmas has been good and Greenall is streamlining its brewery at Warrington. Profits rose 17 per cent in the year to last September and some hope for up to £11.5m this year. The dividend is covered nearly four times. The shares are 104p, the 1976-77 peak.

# Ladbroke in late effort to capture Leis & Gen

By Ashley Druker

Its 60p-a-share offer for Leisure & General Holdings due to close on Thursday next, Ladbroke, the betting and entertainment group, again presses its case for L & G's acceptance. Ladbroke now holds about 18 per cent of the L & G equity. Indications at present are that there is still a deal of hard going ahead for this bid worth a total of some £6.2m.

The L & G board has already stated that the board and other shareholders controlling about 54 per cent of the equity do not intend to accept the offer. L & G's share price stands at 61p, down 1p.

Ladbroke in its latest circular argues that there has been a decline in real earnings at L & G. The 60p offer values L & G at 14 times earnings based on 1976-77 results. L & G has not made any forecast for the year to April 30, 1978, but assuming that there was a profit rise of a third, average growth rate for each of the five years to end-April next would still be 25 per cent below the average inflation rate since 1973.

Finally, Ladbroke says the offer represents an increase in capital value of more than 33 per cent on the price of L & G 54p, but assuming that there was a profit rise of a third, average growth rate for each of the five years to end-April next would still be 25 per cent below the average inflation rate since 1973.

The reaction of the directors of L & G was that the cash offer very substantially undervalued the true worth of the group. Only the L & G board was in a position to appreciate the group's current trading performance.

# Lombard North chief in confident mood

For Lombard North Central, Britain's best known car financier and part of National Westminster Bank, the fall in interest rates that began last spring came none too soon.

Dear money in the half year to March 31 kept profits severely in check. Things got better after the bank cut the average cost to Lombard of money over the full year to September 30 was actually higher than in the year before. However, pre-tax profits rose from £8.4m to £11.7m.

Lord Crawford, chairman, said the share is a "confident" trend of increased profitability. "Tricky" finance did abound, and so did offshoots abroad.

# Harrisons now seek whole of Harcros

By Bryan Appleyard

Harrisons & Crossfield is making a full-scale bid for the investment company Harcros. The bid documents for Harcros are now to be sent out on the same day and the two companies are expected to be incorporated simultaneously into the parent.

The terms are three H & C shares for every 13 Harcros, with a cash alternative worth 78p. At yesterday's closing price of £1.80 the shares offer is worth 90.9p per share against a closing Harcros price of 70p.

H & C already owns almost 20 per cent of Harcros and associated company holdings add another 4.7 per cent.

News of the bid followed two weeks of H & C empire. A bid for Golden Hope has been off and recently McLeod Rus-

sell bid for Malaysian Plantations, a move which prompted an agreed counter-offer from H & C.

The bid documents for Harcros are now to be sent out on the same day and the two companies are expected to be incorporated simultaneously into the parent.

Harcros has strategic stakes in some of H & C's other associates; for example Castlefield and London Sumatra and Harcros also has 4.4 per cent of the equity of H & C's Malaysian Estates.

A spokesman for Harrisons, H & C's advisers, said last night the Harcros bid was not inspired by the recent bids but they had "concentrated the mind" of the company.

# Cavenham hit by weak European currencies

By Michael Clark

Sir James Goldsmith's foods group Cavenham turns in a disappointing set of figures for the first time since going private. Earlier this year the remaining ordinary shares not owned by Générale Occidentale were converted into fixed interest and preference shares.

In the 32 weeks to November 12 sales slipped from £1,071.1m to £1,020.8m. After deducting interest charges up by £1m to £8.7m, pre-tax profits slid from £22.7m to £16.9m.

Much of the blame for the poor performance during this period is placed on the substantial devaluations in Spain and Sweden, together with the general strengthening of sterling against foreign currencies,

which account for about 70 per cent of group turnover.

In addition to this the group sold some secondary activities such as the pharmaceutical and toiletry products division in Belgium.

Trading in the United States has proved difficult for the group because of the unusual competitive pressures in the retail food industry in the north-east of the country.

Economic conditions in Sweden and Spain have also been particularly unfavourable, whereas trading in the United Kingdom, France and Austria has been satisfactory.

Meanwhile, Sir James Goldsmith has sold 4,100 of his 10 per cent preference shares at 56p a share.

# Siemssen in £1m twin takeover

Tobacco merchant and specialist printers group Siemssen, Hunter has exchanged contracts for the purchase of two companies for £1.07m. The two are Seymour Press Group and News Kiosks (Holdings), which were previously under common ownership, although operating as separate management centres.

While the total cost of News Kiosks and Seymour is over £1m, the price paid for the assets of "not less than" £475,000, including some £325,000 in cash—considered to be surplus to the requirements of the businesses.

The purchase price will be made up of £667,500 in cash with the rest covered by the issue of 700,000 new ordinary shares at a price of 58p a share. This minority of common shares have warranted that News Kiosks and Seymour will make profits for the year just ended of £400,000.

# Canon St back in the black

Canon Street Investments has returned a small profit for the six months to June 30. A loss of £122,000 has been turned into a profit of £85,000 on turnover up 28 per cent to £3.6m. The group, which is now controlled by National Westminster Bank has decided to end the sale of its overseas investment and is hanging on to the remaining interests as significant and profitable trading entity.

This is possible because of the large reduction in borrowings already achieved.

# ITT offshoot has rating marked down

One of the subsidiaries of International Telephone & Telegraph, one of the world's largest conglomerates, has had the ratings on its outstanding publicly held debentures and notes marked down by Moody's Investors Service. Pacific Telephone & Telegraph now qualifies only for a Double A compared to a previous Triple A. The \$300m of debentures, due 2018, and scheduled for sale early in the New Year are also being rated high grade Double A.

RIE WANTS \$200m

European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to raise \$200m on European market through two tranche issue. First, of \$100m, 10 year bonds will have an indicated coupon of 8.5 per cent and average life of 12.4 years. Second tranche of \$100m of 15 year bonds indicated coupon 8.75 per cent and average life of 12.4 years. Pricing January 12.

RENTAL HOLDINGS

Group has bought from Greyhound Computer Services Corp its 900 Greyhound Computer Services. Consideration £825,000 in return for net assets of £640,000 including £482,000 cash. No significant contribution to profit expected.

# SAVE & PROSPER has more ways than most to help the private investor

## SAVE & PROSPER

### Britain's largest unit trust group

- Unit trusts under management now exceed £700 million (including that of the life fund invested in unit trusts)
- Over 40 years' investment experience
- More than 500,000 investors

### Unit trusts to meet most requirements

- International Funds
- Capital Funds
- Investment Trust Units
- Universal Growth Fund
- Increasing Income Funds
- High Yield Funds
- Scottish Funds
- High Income Funds
- High Return Unit Trust Income Units
- UK Funds
- UK Equity Fund
- Scottish Funds
- Overseas Funds
- European Growth Fund
- Japan Growth Fund
- United States Growth Fund
- Sector Funds
- Commodity Share Fund
- Energy Industries Fund
- Financial Securities Fund
- Scottish Funds
- High minimum (£2,500) funds
- Select International Fund
- Select Income Fund

As one of the pioneers of unit trusts in Britain, we have developed a comprehensive range of funds, each of which has a clearly defined objective. For shareholders we offer an extremely attractive Share Exchange Plan which offers an efficient and advantageous way of exchanging stocks and shares for an investment managed by Save & Prosper Group.

## SAVE & PROSPER

### A major life insurance company

- Over £150 million life fund
- £20 million annual premium income
- More than 190,000 policyholders

### Unit-linked plans

Our range of plans can be linked to any of the unit trusts shown opposite or to the following funds:

- Property Fund
- Balanced Investment Fund
- Gilt Fund
- Deposit Fund

\*With the exception of the Save-Insure-and-Prospere Plan.

**Flexible Ten Plus Ten Plan** This Plan combines considerable investment flexibility with an exceptionally high investment content—up to 100% depending on age at entry. After 10 years the Plan can be cashed in for a tax-free lump sum or used to provide an income by regular withdrawals, free of personal tax. Save-Insure-and-Prospere Plan One of Britain's most popular unit-linked plans, it provides an attractive way of building up capital over 16 years or more.

**Investment Bonds** A versatile single premium contract. Up to 5% of the original investment can be withdrawn each year for 20 years free of personal tax at the time—a feature particularly attractive to higher-rate taxpayers.

### Guaranteed plans

**Guarantee Plus Protection Plan** This is designed to provide a high basic sum assured plus a bonus on death. It can be suitable, when written in trust, for use in connection with CTT planning.

**Guarantee Plus Savings Plan** An endowment assurance plan designed to provide a high basic sum assured together with a bonus at the end of the term or on earlier death.

## SAVE & PROSPER

### An established annuity and pension company

- A leader in personal annuity business since 1974
- £283 million annuity and pension fund
- More than 25,000 policyholders

### Annuities

We offer a full range of annuities and will be pleased to provide a quotation. From time to time we are able also to offer: Guaranteed Income Plans and Guaranteed Growth Bonds.

### Providing for school fees

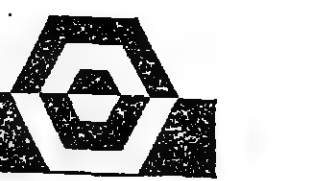
We can help you reduce the burden of school fees through a simple and flexible plan specifically designed to provide a service of guaranteed termly payments.

The School Fees Capital Plan enables you to provide for immediate or future school fees by means of a lump-sum contribution. By starting a School Fees Capital Plan well before the child starts school you can effect considerable cost savings.

### Pension schemes

**Executive Pension Scheme** This is designed for controlling directors and senior executives of companies that have contracted into the new State scheme, but who wish to "top-up" their pensions. Subject to certain limits, full tax relief is normally given on all contributions made by the member and by the company.

**Self-Employed Pension Scheme** This consists of two plans which together meet the complete pension needs of the self-employed. The Guaranteed Plan provides a fixed amount of pension in return for each contribution, while the Investment Plan provides pension based on the investment performance of a tax-exempt equity or property pension fund or a unit trust.









## Stock Exchange Prices

## Subdued end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Tuesday, Dealings End, Jan. 13. Contango Day, Jan. 16. Settlement Day, Jan. 20.  
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]







## Racing

**Fair Kitty impossible to ignore in this form**

From first to last: Pollerton leads the field over the initial flight in the Challow Hurd

[illegible]

[Television (BBC1): 1.0, 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races]

[illegible]

[Television (IBA): 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races]

[illegible]

[Television (IBA) : 1.30, 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 races]

# Thomas wants Conteh in a London ring by February

John Conteh, who has not boxed since he successfully defended the world light-heavyweight championship belt in the London March, could be back in the ring in London early in February. Eddie Hearn, an American promoter, said yesterday that he hoped to stage a bout between Conteh and a suitable opponent at the Sobell Centre, Isleworth.

Certain points of the agreement have yet to be finalized including the size of the purse, but Mr Thomas said he and Conteh hoped to settle with Conteh by the beginning of next week.

"I know it will be expensive," Mr Thomas said, "but not so much, because Conteh wants to get back into the game. He came down to fight a fortnight ago and approached me and we have already agreed about most things. The opponent will probably be an American and a pretty good one."

If Mr Thomas and Conteh come to terms it will be a big step in Mr Thomas's campaign to bring the London scene back to life. He has been a persistent but unlucky promoter, and he suffered his significant setback when Richard Dunn decided to retire within a few weeks of meeting

Billy Aird for the vacant Brit heavyweight title on his promotion which subsequently had to be called off.

For his part, Conteh badly needs some serious exercise, having boxed only for the world championship, of which he was stripped in the summer.

In St Louis, Missouri, U report says Bob Arum, the promoter of the world heavyweight championship bout between Muhammad Ali and Leon Spinks, said that the match would go on as scheduled on February 15 Las Vegas, Nevada, despite a rumour between Spinks and his manager.

Mitt Barnes, Spinks's manager, since he turned professional after winning the light-heavyweight gold medal at the 1976 Olympics, has threatened to go to court to win the contest because his opponent had been disqualified by Spinks.

Mr Barnes said he had a contract to manage the young boxer for the All bout and eight additional matches.

Mr Barnes said Spinks, who he had only seven professional bouts was not ready to meet the challenge and would probably retire over his \$90,000 manager's fee in the All bout.

## Table tennis

# Leading Chinese players at Cleveland

China will be represented by four players from their world championships party for the Cleveland festival of table tennis from June 15 to 18. Their leading player will be Li Chen-shih, a regular member of the team that won the world title in Calcutta in 1975. He is Birmingham earlier this year.

Wang Bui-yuan, 17, the youngest member of the team at Birmingham, and former Chinese junior champion, is also included. The world number five woman player, Chu Hsiang-yun, and 19-year-old Wei Li-chieh, complete the Chinese line-up.

China will play England in a final international at Eton leisure

## Latest European

	Depth (cm)	L
Andermatt	20	60
Crans-Montant	25	110
Excellent skiing conditions		
Davos	15	55
Improving skiing conditions		
Fimke	5	45
Runs closed by high winds		
Isola 2000	82	122
Sleeper slopes worn		
La Plagne	35	100
New patches on lower slopes		
Les Arcs	20	70
Hard base with icy patches		
Les Menettes	18	85
Lower slopes icy		
Mürren	17	52
All lower pistes very icy		
Seefeld	15	50
New snow on worn base		
Val d'Isère	35	85
Ideal skiing conditions		
Verbier	5	85
Lower slopes icy		
Wengen	5	75

**By Peter West**

Midlands will be at pains to limit its potential. For his part, Meanwhile, a full back of undoubted promise will be well placed in carrying the day for the home side in the same fashion, and North Midlands might have an added bonus in the cavalry of leading players to go goals at the drop of a hat.

Everything seems to point to a hard and close fought struggle but the late changes made by the visitors to encourage North Midlands in their belief that with home advantage, they can add their names to the list of champions. When in doubt, players turn the home side—at 1 now du, without too much conviction.

At Thames, Director of Monday afternoon Midweek League, the celebration of their half-century season with a "one-off" presumption of what would be their "new tradition" new year fixture against Fettesians-Luxembourg. Word from the north of the border is that the visitors will be led by Sam Carmichael, the club's record number 1481 of Scottish caps.

The match between Midlands Schools and the touring 19 group Australians, originally fixed for Friday, will now be played on Saturday lights Leicester, next Friday evening (kick-off 7.15).

Midweek League fixtures: 1. Leicester (home), 2. Half Birmingham, 3. J. L. (home), 4. Leicester (home), 5. Leicester (home), 6. Leicester (home), 7. Leicester (home), 8. Leicester (home), 9. Leicester (home), 10. Leicester (home), 11. Leicester (home), 12. Leicester (home), 13. Leicester (home), 14. Leicester (home), 15. Leicester (home), 16. Leicester (home), 17. Leicester (home), 18. Leicester (home), 19. Leicester (home), 20. Leicester (home), 21. Leicester (home), 22. Leicester (home), 23. Leicester (home), 24. Leicester (home), 25. Leicester (home), 26. Leicester (home), 27. Leicester (home), 28. Leicester (home), 29. Leicester (home), 30. Leicester (home), 31. Leicester (home), 32. Leicester (home), 33. Leicester (home), 34. Leicester (home), 35. Leicester (home), 36. Leicester (home), 37. Leicester (home), 38. Leicester (home), 39. Leicester (home), 40. Leicester (home), 41. Leicester (home), 42. Leicester (home), 43. Leicester (home), 44. Leicester (home), 45. 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**By Peter West**

reached the semi-final round of the county championship, losing worthily to Gloucestershire.

Bignell was told before London's decisive victory over the South and South West to concentrate on doing the basics well and he thinks (as, clearly, do the selectors) that he did not do so well at all. "I said," he told "to play a reasonably tight game, I went out to make sure of my tackles and to do the chores."

"I'm not the greatest person for running around on the wing. When I played on a flank for the first time, I was a stone lighter and all the more for it. I think I added at least 10 lb with weight training, so I think I'm now stronger. You can't have it in all ways. But I'm used to it. I know the small chaps come near me that I get down a bit lower, to their level."

It is interesting that, apart from a few Wiltshire games, Bignell has only played against a few old boys and against Rafer in the county championship. Bignell has never played with or against any of the players who are in the senior trial pack. In the Kent-Gloucestershire match Rollitt was the first really established front line performer he has met. This season he has only been in the No. 8 position, played against Gary Adey, but I thought he would be in line for the England job against the Azzurri. He is a fine player. Adey still might be wearing an England jersey in Paris. But, for the moment, it is Bignell's job to reserve.

## Thomas wants Conteh in a London ring by February

## Ski jumping East Germans in first and second places

China will be represented by

## Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm)			Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	
	L	U		piste			°C
Andermatt	20	60	Icy	Crust	Poor	Snow	0
Crans-Montant	25	110					-4
Excellent skiing conditions			Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-1
Davos	15	55		Good	Fair	Snow	-1
Improving skiing conditions							-1
Lifts closed by high winds			Icy	Varied	Poor	Snow	-1
Isola 2000	82	122		Worn	Varied	Fine	-1
Sleeper slopes worn							-3
La Flegere		100		Good	Powder	Fair	-3
Worn patches on lower slopes			Icy	Varied	Fair	Cloud	-6
Les Arcs	20	70					-1
Hard base with icy patches			Good	Crust	Fair	Snow	-4
Les Menuires	18	85					-1
Lower slopes icy			Icy	Powder	Fair	Snow	2
Mürren	17	52					-1
AK lower pistes very icy			Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	2
Seefeld	15	50					-1
New snow on worn base			Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	-1
Val d'Isère	35	85					4
Ideal skiing conditions							-5
Verbier	5	85		Fair	Powder	Fair	0
Lower slopes icy	5	25		Hard	Varied	Poor	0
Wengen							-5
Lower slopes icy	5	45		Fair	Powder	Fine	-5
Zermatt							

Good sliding on upper slopes

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

**SPAIN:** Formigal, 9pm above 1,000m, powder snow, fine weather; 1,000m, 6pm at 1,500m, 500m at 2,000m, powder snow; Canischu, 100m at 1,700m, 500m at 2,500m, 100m at 3,000m, cloud; Sierra Molina, 100m at 1,700m; Sierra Nevada, 100m at 2,000m, 500m at 2,500m, 100m at 3,000m, light weather; Sierra Nevada, 100m at 2,000m, 500m at 2,500m, 100m at 3,000m, light weather; Sierra Nevada, 100m at 2,000m, 500m at 2,500m, 100m at 3,000m, light weather.

**SCOTLAND:** Cairnmore: A few faint snow patches but narrow, all others broken; Cairnmore: No main runs, little or no snow, surface icy. Vertical runs, 1,000m, 1,500m, 2,000m, 2,500m, 3,000m, 3,500m, 4,000m, 4,500m, 5,000m, 5,500m, 6,000m, 6,500m, 7,000m, 7,500m, 8,000m, 8,500m, 9,000m, 9,500m, 10,000m, 10,500m, 11,000m, 11,500m, 12,000m, 12,500m, 13,000m, 13,500m, 14,000m, 14,500m, 15,000m, 15,500m, 16,000m, 16,500m, 17,000m, 17,500m, 18,000m, 18,500m, 19,000m, 19,500m, 20,000m, 20,500m, 21,000m, 21,500m, 22,000m, 22,500m, 23,000m, 23,500m, 24,000m, 24,500m, 25,000m, 25,500m, 26,000m, 26,500m, 27,000m, 27,500m, 28,000m, 28,500m, 29,000m, 29,500m, 30,000m, 30,500m, 31,000m, 31,500m, 32,000m, 32,500m, 33,000m, 33,500m, 34,000m, 34,500m, 35,000m, 35,500m, 36,000m, 36,500m, 37,000m, 37,500m, 38,000m, 38,500m, 39,000m, 39,500m, 40,000m, 40,500m, 41,000m, 41,500m, 42,000m, 42,500m, 43,000m, 43,500m, 44,000m, 44,500m, 45,000m, 45,500m, 46,000m, 46,500m, 47,000m, 47,500m, 48,000m, 48,500m, 49,000m, 49,500m, 50,000m, 50,500m, 51,000m, 51,500m, 52,000m, 52,500m, 53,000m, 53,500m, 54,000m, 54,500m, 55,000m, 55,500m, 56,000m, 56,500m, 57,000m, 57,500m, 58,000m, 58,500m, 59,000m, 59,500m, 60,000m, 60,500m, 61,000m, 61,500m, 62,000m, 62,500m, 63,000m, 63,500m, 64,000m, 64,500m, 65,000m, 65,500m, 66,000m, 66,500m, 67,000m, 67,500m, 68,000m, 68,500m, 69,000m, 69,500m, 70,000m, 70,500m, 71,000m, 71,500m, 72,000m, 72,500m, 73,000m, 73,500m, 74,000m, 74,500m, 75,000m, 75,500m, 76,000m, 76,500m, 77,000m, 77,500m, 78,000m, 78,500m, 79,000m, 79,500m, 80,000m, 80,500m, 81,000m, 81,500m, 82,000m, 82,500m, 83,000m, 83,500m, 84,000m, 84,500m, 85,000m, 85,500m, 86,000m, 86,500m, 87,000m, 87,500m, 88,000m, 88,500m, 89,000m, 89,500m, 90,000m, 90,500m, 91,000m, 91,500m, 92,000m, 92,500m, 93,000m, 93,500m, 94,000m, 94,500m, 95,000m, 95,500m, 96,000m, 96,500m, 97,000m, 97,500m, 98,000m, 98,500m, 99,000m, 99,500m, 100,000m, 100,500m, 101,000m, 101,500m, 102,000m, 102,500m, 103,000m, 103,500m, 104,000m, 104,500m, 105,000m, 105,500m, 106,000m, 106,500m, 107,000m, 107,500m, 108,000m, 108,500m, 109,000m, 109,500m, 110,000m, 110,500m, 111,0

**NATIONAL LEAGUE:** Philadelphia Flyers 3, Minnesota North Stars 2; Atlanta Flames 5, St. Louis Blues 4; Montreal Canadiens 4, Pittsburgh Penguins 3; Buffalo Sabres 3, Detroit Red Wings 2; Los Angeles Kings 2, Colorado Rockies 2.

**WORLD ASSOCIATION:** Birmingham Bulls 7, Cincinnati Stingers 1; Houston Aeros 7, Indianapolis Racers 1.

**TOKYO:** Soviet Union beat Winnipeg Jets 2-1.

	Conditions	Runs to	Weather	
	Off	resort	(5 pm)	°C
Piste	piste			
Icy	Crust	Poor	Snow	0
Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-4

Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	-1
Icy	Varied	Poor	Snow	-1
Warm	Varied	Fair	Fine	-1
Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	-3
Icy	Varied	Fair	Cloud	-6
Good	Crust	Fair	Snow	-1
Icy	Powder	Fair	Snow	-4
Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	-2
Good	Powder	Fair	Snow	-1
Fair	Powder	Fair	Snow	-1
Fair	Varied	Poor	Snow	0
Hard	Powder	Fair	Fine	-5

by representatives of the Ski Club of  
 represents U to U upper slopes. The  
 from other sources :



SPORT

Football

# Forest seem favoured by tide of events

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

In the past week footballers who were perhaps beginning to become appreciative about Nottingham Forest's five-point lead in the first division reassured themselves by saying: "It's still wide open", with the season only just moving into its second half, is mathematically indisputable. Yet Forest manager, Brian Clough, made some psychological capital by pointing out that Derby County had not been as well placed at the same stage in their championship winning seasons.

The trend has been for the Christmas programme to finish with the way ahead, distinctly marked. Derby were exceptions and even though Liverpool are thought of as a team with a late season wind, they contributed to the pattern by leading immediately after Christmas when on the way to their titles of the past two seasons.

So, Forest have the tide of events in their favour, especially as Everton, the team expected to be riding an unbeatable sequence, collapsed to two defeats to the Uniteds, Manchester and Leeds on Boxing Day and Tuesday.

Everton still figure highly in the options and their matches today against Arsenal at Goodison and on Monday at Nottingham Forest, could be among the most important of the whole season. Two wins would revive them. Liverpool, moving back into position, may well take four points from two north eastern clubs, Middlesbrough and Newcastle United, but Arsenal are handing them all this New Year's Eve, six consecutive away wins and only one home defeat all season are figures that have combined to take them alongside Everton on the day the clubs meet.

Arsenal have locked on to a regular selection and retain it today. Macdonald is in some doubt earlier in the week but has recovered. Everton's defeat has brought an immediate response from the manager, Gordon Lee, who drops his young centre half, Higgins, and a full back, Jones, replacing them with the more experienced Keaton and Dargie. Pearson and Buckley are still injured. So, Ross, formerly of Arsenal, and McKennie continue.

A friend of mine who has been observing football throughout the world was moved to say this week that Nottingham Forest's performance in their first half against



Macdonald: fitness doubts dispelled at Highbury yesterday morning.

Liverpool on Boxing Day was as good as anything he had seen in recent years. That being so, Forest should not be stretched at Bristol City today although Alan Dicks has produced a sound, sensible team who are now playing with more confidence. Forest will have O'Brien as their substitute instead of Bowyer and that is their only alteration from the team who won at Newcastle on Wednesday. Bristol will be better prepared for them now that Hunter is back.

Manchester City's enigmatic form turned in a more favourable direction at Christmas when they beat Newcastle United 4-0 and Middlesbrough 2-0. They were also delighted to see the return of Bell, whose career seemed to have ended at the very time he had been expected to be among Europe's outstanding players. He plays against Aston Villa today but Tuerk, who scored three goals on Monday, is concerned about some pain behind the knee. Meanwhile, Channon is recovering from his injuries and may play at Leicester on Monday.

It was surely no coincidence that Tuesday's match between Coventry City and Norwich City produced nine goals. Both teams like to play adventurous football. Yesterday the Norwich manager, John Bond, resolved that he would not insult his staff by making offers for players on the transfer market at least until next summer. In any case, he said: "I'm fed up with the outrageous prices clubs are asking for quite average players."

Neither of Norwich's matches against Middlesbrough today and West Ham United on Monday should prove his confidence unfounded. Indeed, for their home match with Leicester City today, Derek Johnson and Gordon Smith will pose plenty of problems for the Edinburgh club's defence. Hibernian have taken full points from their last three games—in marked contrast to their previous six matches which produced one. Hibernian is doubtful with a toe injury.

Second club, Aberdeen, came in unchanged and for their clash with Celtic today, it looks as if the Dons will carry too much power for their opponents especially if Harper and Robb are on form.

Rugby League

# Bramley decide to dismiss their coach

Bramley Rugby League Club announced yesterday that they had dismissed their coach, Tommy Smiles, who joined them during the close season.

Les Phillips, the club secretary, said in a statement: "The main reason for the dismissal was the attitude and conduct of Smiles towards the chairman, Mr Douglas Alton, and the board of directors on several occasions, which left much to be desired and could be no longer tolerated. The board had no alternative but to take action."

Mr Smiles was formerly coach at Dewsbury, who won the League Championship when he was in charge. Bramley have had a disappointing season after gaining promotion and with eight games from 16 matches are in danger of relegation.

David Oxley, the Rugby League secretary, in a message for 1978 said yesterday: "My greatest wish is to send the Australian tourists home with plenty of cash but no ashes."

The visit of the Australians in the autumn will be the highlight of 1978 and Mr Oxley said: "Through the European triangular tournament and under-24 matches we are building up to the visit of the Australians and we are determined to take the Ashes."

Mr Oxley hoped 1978 would see a continuation of the improvements in the standard of play, which had led to rising gates and greater consistency in refereeing. "Our recent visit to France proved beyond doubt that our referees are the best in the world but we want to achieve a greater pattern of consistency all round in our matches, which is not easy, but we are working with the referees on this."

Yachting

# Kilroy was here first on time and on handicap

Sydney, Dec 30.—Kilroy, an American ketch, was certain to take the Sydney-to-Hobart race on corrected time, officials said today. Kilroy, skippered by Jim Kilroy, crossed the line in Hobart's Derwent river at 11.14 am yesterday, nearly 20 hours outside the record of two days, 14 hours, 35 minutes and 56 seconds set in 1975. Twenty-four hours later, only four other yachts had completed the course.

The gale-force winds and high seas, which eliminated 58 of the record number of 130 yachts that started on Monday, gave way to calm conditions, leaving the rest of the fleet wallowing in light and variable winds. The main contenders for handicap honours were almost becalmed between 70 and 100 miles from the finish, with the crews helplessly watching their chances of victory diminish as time went on.

Officials said Zilvergeest III has the best chance of overhauling Kilroy's lead on corrected time. To win the race on handicap, Zilvergeest must average 6 knots and finish before 0.31 am tomorrow. But in the light conditions, officials say the task seems impossible.

If the American yacht wins, it will become only the third yacht to do so on both the fastest time and on handicap. Captain John Illingworth, in Rani, who won the inaugural race for Britain in 1945, and Ted Turner, who won in Eagle for the United States in 1972, are the only others to complete the double.

As time ran out for the smaller boats, the prize widened on Kilroy and his eight-man crew. "I think we've got it now and I'm tickled," Kilroy said after studying the computerized print-out of the other yachts' positions at 7.30 am. "I never like to be confident, but the figures say we should do it."

REGIONAL HANDICAP PLACINGS: 1. Kilroy (A. Kilroy) 11.14; 2. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 3. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 4. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 5. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 6. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 7. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 8. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 9. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 10. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 11. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 12. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 13. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 14. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 15. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 16. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 17. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 18. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 19. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 20. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 21. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 22. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 23. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 24. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 25. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 26. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 27. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 28. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 29. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 30. Rani (J. Illingworth) 12.01; 31. Eagle (T. Turner) 12.01; 32. Rani (J. 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Weekend

## SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Once upon a time there was a tree called the Spachea Perforata—a spreading tree with slightly drooping form, reminiscent of the willow but larger and fragrant, with large flowers above the silvery bark and along the Soudiere tree and it was loved for its beauty as well as the hint of pathos.

It began to disappear. There is just one left in all the world as far as anyone can tell and what a miracle it would be if

somebody suddenly said there was another after reading this, for the lone Soudiere might even have a happy ending. This last member of its species is at the Botanic Gardens in King's town, St Vincent, in the Caribbean, where it was planted before a volcanic eruption destroyed nearly all the trees on the slopes of Mount Soufriere in 1812. Nobody thought or did much about the few that escaped that volcano and it was too late after the

second volcano of 1902 which ended the lives of the few remaining trees. Until recently, the tree was thought to be male but has now been found to be hermaphrodite—entirely infertile, due to the hot, humid conditions. Nearly 200 years old, it stands there, a botanic curiosity, the last-known specimen in the world. Sad, but artist Graham Rust has done something about preserving its memory and its elegance and grace. He has done a

delicate, charming pencil and watercolour of Spachea Perforata, done at St Vincent during the past few months. You can buy prints of the Rust picture at Spink and Son, 5/7 King Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6QS (01-930 7888) for £10 each, a not too costly way of remembering the tree

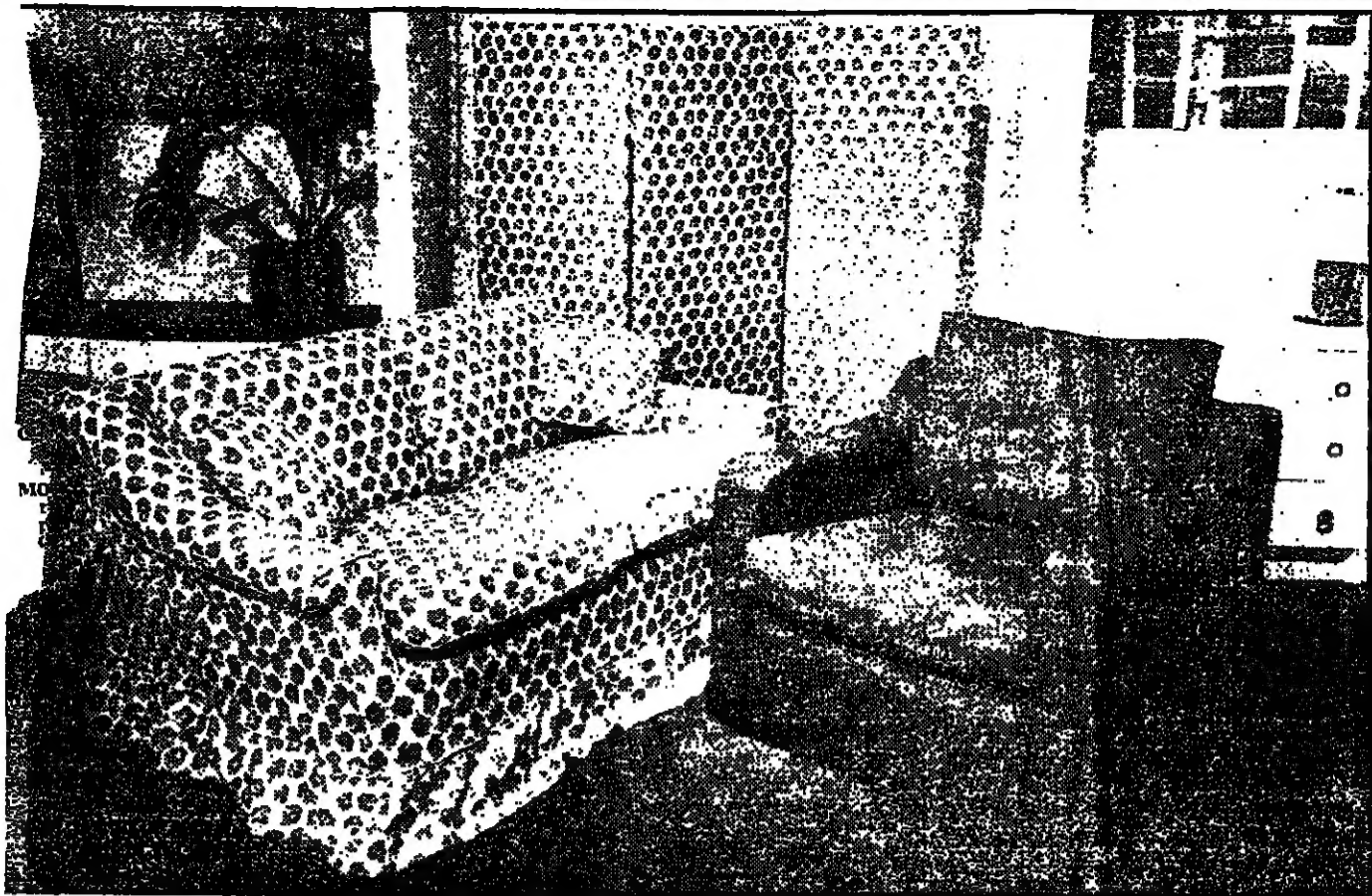
after it breathes its last, as well it may.

Also at Spink is, at last, the Silver Jubilee paperweight of which we showed a photograph more than two months ago when there were expected to be more than there were. Colour leaflets, with order forms, for this £250 (+ VAT) paperweight by Bac-

carat can be sent from Spink, who commissioned it from the famous crystal firm of Baccarat to be made in a limited edition of only 500. The Queen's profile is white against a rich purplish ground, showing at its best when the paperweight is lighted, and is framed by a circle of 25 canes.

For dedicated collectors, there are some more paperweights by Paul Stankard, rapidly becoming a star in this world who made his first paper-

weight only seven years ago and is becoming recognized by the cognoscenti, some of whom compare him to a master like Charles Kazzum. Each Stankard piece is signed with a S cane inserted into the bottom of the weight and he appeals to collectors by making a series, his insistence on perfection being amply demonstrated by the massive barrel of rejected weights in his New Jersey studio. Among his flowers are a



New Dimension has been changing fast during the past year and even faster in a past few months. The photographs are not their best sale bargains—quite deliberately because what is available in sales can vary from one day to the next and I feel that I can best serve you by telling you about their look, their style, their design sense. From being once a cheap furniture place, specializing in mail order, New Dimension has become a medium-priced, good furniture place with clean, simple design and infinitely more prettiness than it had in the old, very welcome but rather starker days.

Because of the gradual, now rapid,

changes, there will be plenty of bargains among the discontinued lines. Lots of shelving, shelf units, wall or free-standing units with drawers and cupboards are in most branches, making way for the newer pine cube systems for storage and shelving. These wood units are laminated with a good pine veneer and can be varnished or waxed to stay as natural pine or can be painted or stained to any colour you like. The cube system must be familiar to most people but it is worth going along to study because, rather more than most similar storage systems, it makes it much easier for impetuous customers to buy the few pieces they can afford and then to add at will without the initial unit looking

like only half a unit.

As the pine cubes come in, the ever-popular but now obsolescent Homestore is being phased out—not because demand has fallen but because there is no room for the good when the better comes along. I like the calico-covered chairs and sofas in the Sophie and Scroll upholstery ranges because they are comfortable, extremely compact in even the smallest living rooms, of a good sitting height (so many people are not very agile on low furniture) and yet capacious enough. Loose covers are pretty and I love a Designer Guild cover so much that my own Sophie is dressed in it. Blue and white and fresh. You do not need to buy the loose covers at once because the calico is perfectly livable with until you can afford it. The chair

is normally around £90, the two-seater sofa about £140 and the three-seater £175. Sale price equivalents, if you get there in time, are roughly £81, £125 and £157. The loose covers are made in a new way and could hardly be quicker and simpler to put on and take off and you can have them with frilled skirts or to look neatly fitted. They are not cheap covers but they are attractive.

The ticking sofa (called Tik) is in brown and cream or black and cream stripes and they look smart as well as practical at about £99 for the chair or £149 for the sofa (down to about £79 and £119). To decorate them are a wealth of really pretty cushions.

There are no sale goods as such at any of the New Dimension branches but there are reductions on normal goods. Every single thing is reduced—I had not realized that this is fairly unusual; sales goods are often only a part of the merchandise, mixed up with lots of non-sale stuff. The reductions may be 10 per cent or may be as high as one-third. There are some pieces down by half but they usually sell out fast so it would hardly be fair for me to irritate you with a list two days after the sale opened.

China and glass, where it exists and it is not in all the shops by any means, is excellent value and in very good taste. Design here is often by Lord Queensberry, who has not only designed for a living but taught others at the Royal School of Art to do so too. What he has not designed he has carefully chosen and I

think you will be tempted by a lot. Ipswich, St Albans and West Ealing are the china shops but there just may be sale oddments in some of the other dozen or so branches. If you do not know your nearest New Dimension, phone 01-998 2900 for your branch. And, if you can take time off, go out to West Ealing where the car parking space is enormous and the browsing a pleasure while the glass and china is terrific. There are also some different cane and bamboo tables that have elegance and dignity as well as ecology. This branch is at Manor Road, off Drayton Green Road near West Ealing station, London W13, and they are open next Monday, January 2, at all branches. Since most other shops will be closed, the streets should be clear.

A friend has been studying and practising "intuitive massage" for a long time and now feels ready to start giving massage. I asked for a trial and it was a kind of traditional Swedish massage but she describes it as centring her energy on the tired spots and then working "with full awareness and attention in one's hands to establish contact with the massagee and so to ease or soothe or relax and make for well-being".

She asked how she should start on paying clients, and I said calmly that she should advertise and then, when she explained, suddenly realized how difficult life has become for genuine masseuses. She dare not advertise so how does she get her clients. She dare not do a mailing or a leaflet drop and she, being a mother, cannot take a job in a respectable establishment which would mean inflexible hours. If anybody who wants honest-to-goodness massage would like to try Sara's touch, I will pass on letters but I tell the story as one of pathos not as an advertisement. Incidentally she lives in West London and is not prepared to travel too far.

The National Maritime Museum is a great place to take the young children and teenagers, especially if the weather is fine enough to show the "Curry Sark's silhouette. The museum itself is such an imposing place that it is worth a stare even if one never goes in but there is now plenty of inducement, even for those who think they know it well, because a whole new floor of galleries has been opened in the west wing.

Here you can learn about Captain Cook, who opened up the Pacific and so changed history; about the American colonies from the day that land was discovered up to independence; the French revolution—any war and that sailor of sailors, Nelson, who is backed by romance as well as history. His shipboard furniture is there, as is a corner of his drawing room at Merton and other furniture of his as well as of his Emma.



If it were possible, I should visit, or have an assistant to visit small specialist shops all over Britain. But it would be physically and financially impossible so I would like to thank readers who send me names of such places where the service has been as good as the merchandise. Shopkeepers themselves send me information but, while I do trust them, they are bound to be enthusiastic about their own enterprises and an objective recommendation is valuable. So do write to me about your favourites. I cannot publish all the names I get but we do find them useful to pass on to readers and our list is all too short.

All too keenly aware that so many of you live outside London, I do ration rather strictly the mention of purely London shops unless I know them to be willing to handle mail order and telephone inquiries. But Solution is an exception since it is an oasis in a part of London where thousands want to shop in a busy lunchtime or during a brief lull in work and who can find few shops selling original gifts or kitchenery lines of the kind so plentiful in pretty well every country town and in most of the residential or "village" areas of large cities.

Solution is off London Wall, near the non-shopping side of the Barbican development but on the opposite side of the "Wall". It is very difficult to find but worth seeking. Use the staircase by the IBM building at 40 Basinghall Street or at

the back of the Guildhall. The correct address is Solution, Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DS. The telephone number is 01-638 2907.

The name speaks for itself, being the solution to going West or going without for so many City dwellers and workers. It has all that popular basket ware from China and other parts less further east plus some lovely jewelry from Finland—the Lapponia range no less. Pine furniture is up on their podium and you will see a superb Welsh dresser at £125 inexpensive for what it is, as well as some chests of drawers in an aged-looking pine for about £55. There are many of the enchantingly-designed Gallery Five lines and some very interesting Hawaiian costume jewelry which is rather different, rather naive and good value at prices from well under £5.

The Elite shelves, of natural and coloured yarns that look like hanging lanterns, fish nets, keep next and suspended globes, are there as are the famous Thomas' stacking china ranges and a "Finesse" glass by Itala. Silk squares from £1.25 make pretty neckties to tie on high-necked sweaters and dresses, and little animals, sand-casted into shape on thick chunks of glass, attract many customers to part with anything from £6 to £20. Silver and gold jewelry is either fine and dainty or big and chunky and it all reminds me of the very early days of Booby, which is hardly surprising since the proprietor

is one of the two young men who starred Booby all those years ago, using the work of young craftsmen and women. The work was chunkier then and there is more of the fine stuff now.

The photograph shows a selection including mugs with messages on them such as "Coffee drinkers make better lovers" or "Weight watchers please don't feed me" and many others (£1.25). Also in the photograph, front right, is a kitchen sieve. It looks like a curious kind of cane racquet, hollow for catching balls, but it is a perfectly workable kitchen sieve. I can not tell you how long it wears and certainly would not expect it to wear as long as metal or plastic sieves but it is a whole lot more attractive to hang about the kitchen and is cheap enough at 65p for a smallish one with higher prices for larger sizes.

The tambourine-shaped thing with rope handles is a colander in bamboo and cane and it works just as well—there are varying sizes from about 95p to about £1.20.

The rhino jigsaw is beloved by many at £3.65 and he is rather decorative. Then, just in front of the rope-handled sieve (£3.25) is a grater. This I loved, tough, durable little thing of wood with sharp teeth on either side running in two different directions, and a steal at 60p.

There are catkins and tunics, and quite a good few pieces of plain white kitchen china.

First you see this doll's house, a great big one almost the size of a Wendy house and firm enough for a couple of children to sit on the red roof above the yellow, many-windowed walls. Then, you decide, is a pretty super plaything and, before you can go on to the next thought, one side of the house is flat on the floor and the two children are tucked snugly inside the interior, in their own little hideaway. Flatten the other wall and you have a floor mattress, a spare bed with the roof as the raised part for recliners. The whole thing is made in Dunlopfoam foam, covered with a removable, screen-printed fabric, and it is fun as well as useful. What a way to make a bed, from a little house, but what a way to encourage little ones to make the bed each morning as long as they can make it

into another play place. Open, the mattress measures 4 inches thick by 75 inches long by 22 inches wide. The actual sleeping length is just over 60 inches as the leading roof is about 12 inches but possibly not flat enough for a pillow, just a good lean-to for short backs.

It costs £35 and, for the time being, can be bought only at Tigermoth, 166 Portobello Road, London W11 (01-727 7564). You will also find lots of clothes for young and adult young, casual, pretty, fun and generally at good, medium prices. A child's corduroy dress is around £6, tee-shirts and sweaters for grown-ups are about £10 and the taste there is very boutique, but far from too trendy for most people and the atmosphere delightful. Practical and original; obtainable by mail order.

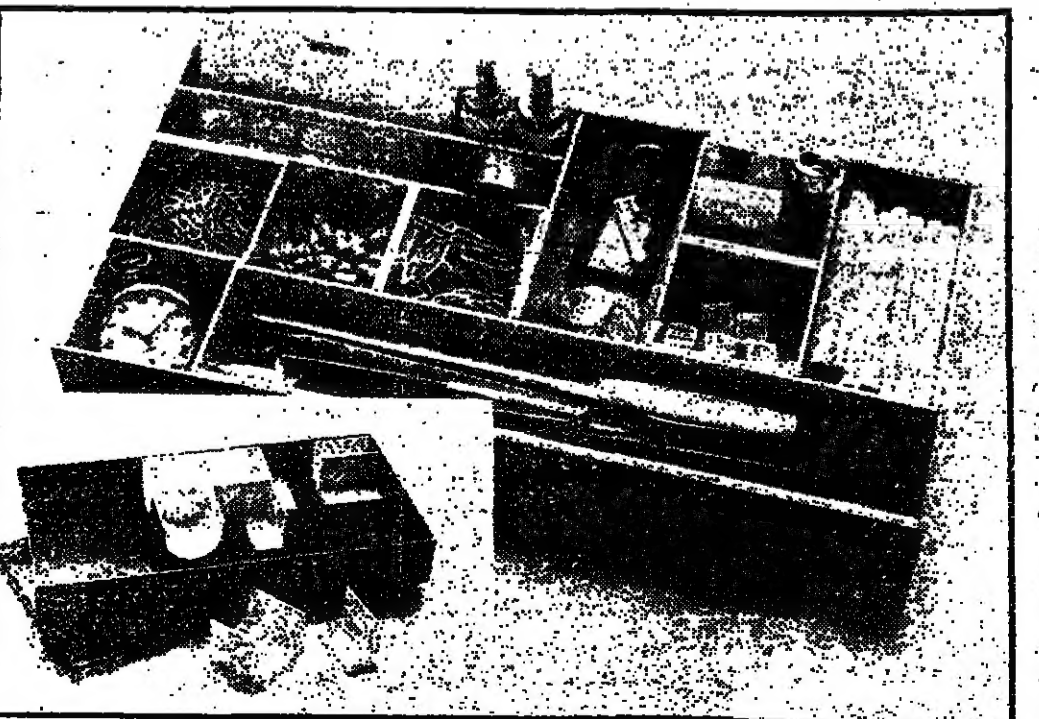
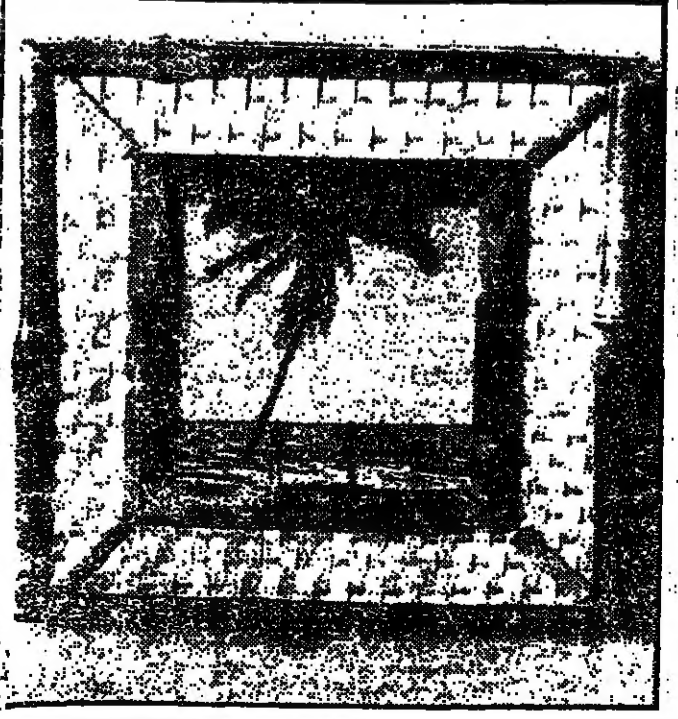
I think that the Rosenthal sale offers particularly good value and I found a great many china pieces at roughly half price. The Thomas' china, for example, is down by around 50 per cent and, if you like the special white Polysol which does stand up to a lot of rough use, it is at under £3 per cup and saucer, normally costing £5.60.

The curvaceous Kosta Boda glassware is also halved in price and there are some crystal pieces, too, as well as a few reductions on tableware.

Rosenthal Studio House is at 102 Brompton Road, London SW3 and the number is 01-584 0683. This excellent sale starts on January 4.

Readers loved the Mary Chess locket of creamy, solid perfume at £5.40. Its gilded finish and the chasing appealed to a number who continued to wear the locket long after the perfume had gone (it can be refilled). For one, the excellent but inexpensive replica was not enough. His loved one was to have a locket of 18-carat gold in which to carry her fragrance. So Mary Chess had a locket designed and made by Cartier in 18 carat gold, on a 22-inch long rope-pattern gold chain. A central oval motif on the locket is of eight diamonds. The price is £1,300 and it is exclusively sold at Harrods. Inquiries for rather lower-cost lockets and for other Mary Chess things from 7 Shepherd Market, London W1Y 7HR (01-629 5152).

Diddy Box is a ghastly name for a pretty useful container, yet another of those plastic, compartmented boxes for workshop, artist, desk, playroom, sewing or whatever. I say "yet another" but I do think this one is more versatile than many because the various compartment sizes can be changed at will by means of plastic partitions. The box itself measures 14½ by 7½ by 2½ inches and weighs about 2½lbs which means it is fairly tough and stands up to a lot of the heavier oddments like nuts and bolts or tools. Since it has a lid, it does not collect dust along with oddments as so many do. It is in brown, white or red with smoky lid and 24 little dividing pieces. It sells direct from Rotalac Company, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 1TB. The price is £4.99, the postage 50p.



Spink & Son



